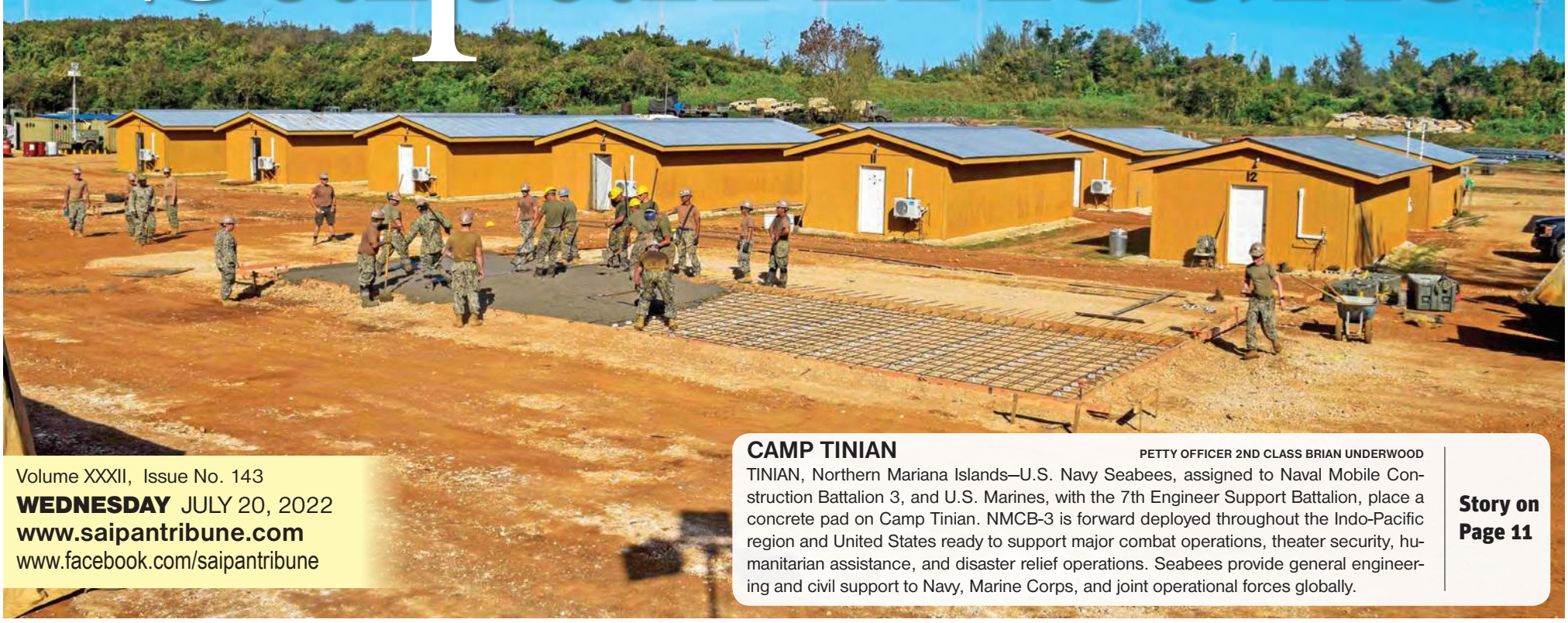
Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

COVID-19 update: 4 hospitalized; 205 new cases. PAGE 2
Kina Peter joins Triple J executive management team. PAGE 6



CAMP TINIAN

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BRIAN UNDERWOOD

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—U.S. Navy Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, and U.S. Marines, with the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, place a concrete pad on Camp Tinian. NMCB-3 is forward deployed throughout the Indo-Pacific region and United States ready to support major combat operations, theater security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief operations. Seabees provide general engineering and civil support to Navy, Marine Corps, and joint operational forces globally.

Story on Page 11

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 143
WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2022
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Palacios to pursue his candidacy

» Says he made the decision to pursue his candidacy after much reflection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a lot of time to reflect during his recovery out of the hospital and even while he was still in the hospital, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday that he made the decision to pursue his candidacy for governor because there are so many people "committed to the cause."

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios holds a press briefing yesterday afternoon at his office on Capital Hill. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Speaking at a press conference in his office on Capital Hill, Palacios, 66, said he and his running-mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, are

See PALACIOS on Page 4

T4G Kubo clears caves on Saipan

By LORI S. STEWART
Command Historian
U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

On July 23, 1944, T4g. Bob Hoichi Kubo, a Japanese American linguist with the 27th Infantry Division, entered a cave held by eight armed Japanese soldiers and convinced them to release 122 civilian hostages and surrender themselves. For his heroic actions that day, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

A native of Hawaii,

See T4G on Page 4

A Japanese American soldier of the 27th Infantry Division interrogates a Japanese soldier on Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Ex-IPI workers amend discrimination suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC workers whose suit had been previously dismissed have filed an amended complaint against the casino investor and are now demanding a jury trial.

See EX-IPI on Page 4

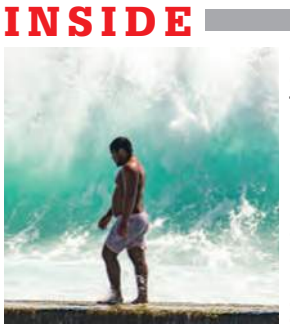
Study: Student gains last year narrowed COVID learning gap

By ANNIE MA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite a year of disruptions, students largely made academic gains this past year that paralleled their growth pre-pandemic and outpaced the previous school year, according to new research released Tuesday from NWEA, a nonprofit research group that

See STUDY on Page 4

INSIDE

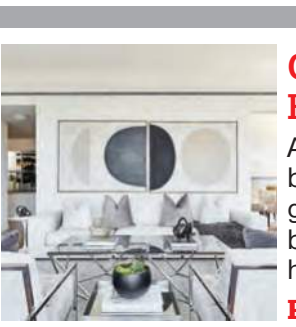


LOCAL
Towering waves on Hawaii's south shores crash into homes and businesses, spilling across highways.

PAGE 11

NATION
A 3-year-old and two other children were among the six people killed in a pileup last week.

PAGE 12



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Artwork can both blend into the background and make a bold statement in your home's décor.

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Local

Sablan questions 'flurry' of renewals of executive orders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) on Monday questioned the slew of executive orders from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that renewed the declarations for a State of Public Health Emergency and State of Significant Emergency for the CNMI due to COVID-19 threat.

Speaking at a House of Representatives session, Sablan said one executive order also renewed the previous EO purporting to authorize the Finance secretary to reprogram or transfer funds from the accounts of the government to meet the COVID-19 threat.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Torres.

Sablan noted that these executive orders, dated Jan. 10, Jan. 18, Feb. 10, March 13, April 8, May 8, and June 7, all in 2022, were stamped received by the office of the House speaker on June 28, 2022.

Sablan pointed out that, as far as they can tell, none of these executive orders were published in the *Commonwealth Register* and that the last publication of an order related to COVID-19 appeared in October 2021.

Sablan

Torres

"I find it interesting and highly suspect that we are just now receiving this flurry of executive orders after this body—primarily through the Ways and Means Committee—has been making inquiries with the Governor's Office and with [the Department of] Finance on contracts and procurement practices related to the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response," she said.

Sablan pointed out that, at their most recent meeting last week with Patrick Guerrero, who is the Governor's Authorized Representative to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, she specifically asked whether the CNMI was still in a state of emergency, because they haven't received any declaration notices. Sablan said that even Guerrero didn't know and stated that he had also just inquired himself.

"Did the governor just forget to notify the Legislature that he was continuing the state of emergency? Did he just decide it wasn't that important?" she asked.

Sablan questioned if Torres did backdate these emergency declarations and if they are legally valid.

"How significant can the emergency be if he's forgetting or otherwise failing to let the people know about it? Or hiding it?" Sablan asked.

She inquired what funds have been reprogrammed without any real oversight or accountability during this period of "purported emergency" and what contracts have been awarded and paid under fast-tracked emergency protocols. "Are these executive orders really meant to provide cover for that?" Sablan said.

Sablan said it may well be that the state of emergency is necessary and that Guerrero kind of suggested as much to ensure that the Commonwealth remains eligible for federal reimbursements, and that she can appreciate.

Sablan said, however, what worries her is that they have been operating under state of emergency procurement status for more than two straight years now—"that's two straight years of emergency and sole source contracts with very little oversight."

"Two straight years of practically unchecked reprogramming power. Colleagues, the rest of the Commonwealth is moving toward normalcy, but the government is lagging far behind. And there's really nothing normal about how we're spending public money and who's really benefitting from it," she said.

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said these executive orders, which she described as dubious, were backdated and that essentially executive orders are law.

"But certainly the Constitution did not authorize the governor to apply these laws or executive orders retroactively, and that is very concerning to the Legislature," Babauta said.

Torres first issued EO 2020-04 on March 16, 2020, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency and a continued Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency, establishing response, quarantine, and preventive measures concerning COVID-19.

Since then, Torres has renewed EO 2020-04 every month, along with the other EO that grants the Finance secretary unlimited reprogramming authority.

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CNMI'S COVID-19 UPDATE:

4 hospitalized; 205 new cases

As of July 18, 2022, there are four individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

From July 10 to 16, 2022, there were 11 new hospitalizations due to COVID-19, but seven have since been discharged from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., based on its news release Monday night.

Also, from July 10 to 16, a total of 205 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 12,398 cases since March 28, 2020. Some duplicates have been removed.

Of the recently identified cases, 23 were identified on July 10 (two on Tinian); 49 on July 11 (two on Tinian); 25 on July 12; 17 on July 13, (one on Tinian); 41 on July 14; 24 on July 15; and 26 on July 16.

With the uptick in community cases, the CNMI remains at COVID-19 Community Level Medium.

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 12,231 recoveries; 132 active cases; and 35 COVID-19-related deaths.

Of that number, 11,415 were identified via community testing and 983 via travel testing.

The next CHCC report will be issued around July 25, 2022.

As of July 18, 2022, a total of 23,456 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 62.8%

See COVID on Page 4

Masga is fourth to file candidacy for Rota mayor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Harry James Atalig Masga filed Monday his candidacy for mayor of Rota as an independent bet for this Nov. 8 general election.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol said that Masga submitted his petition for nomination and candidacy documents at the CEC in Susupe, making him the fourth individual to seek the mayoralty post in the First Senatorial District, or Rota.

Masga is employed by the Rota office of U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

For the first time in Rota history, six individuals are running or have signified their intention to run for mayor of the island.

First to file was Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), followed by Magdalena San Nicolas Mesngon, who is currently a Head Start teacher. Last Thursday, U.S. Army veteran Alfredo Taisacan Taimano filed his candidacy. All three are running as independent candidates.

Those who have yet to file their candidacies are Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board chair Aubry Hocog of the Republican Party and Rodney Taisacan, who is a former Commonwealth Ports Authority seaport director.

Meanwhile, Frederick Atalig Manglona Jr. filed his candidacy Friday before a CEC staff on Rota for a seat in the Rota Municipal Council.

Torres: DOC personnel deserve pay raises

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says the across-the-board pay raises he has allocated for agencies like the Department of Corrections using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are well deserved, given the nature of their jobs.

The governor's fiscal year 2023 budget plan proposes an across-the-board increase of 20% for full-time employees and department heads for various government agencies, including DOC.

In addressing those who criticize him for proposing what is being described as "a large increase" for an agency like DOC, Torres said he firmly believes these increases are warranted, given what the job entails, including the long shifts.

"DOC is probably one of the most stressful jobs there is. They're in there 24 hours some days. They deal with inmates. They deserve to get their salary increased. To the critics out there, I challenge them to go in and try carrying out their work, to be in these officers' position for eight-hour or 12-hour shifts and see if they don't come out complaining about their salaries. So those critics, I challenge them, go in there and sit with them. Talk to the ones sitting in these positions and then come out and criticize. Because for me, I can't do the things that they can do and the only thing I can do is give them the increase that they deserve," he said.

Torres explained that the increases were proposed to maximize the CNMI's ARPA funds and give salary increases to those whose salaries haven't been adjusted in years.

"[That's] why we continue to give pay increases to all of them, whether it's through rate increases or salary adjustments. Some of these folks hasn't [had a salary increase] for a long time. So in the last few years, I took it upon myself to give these personnel increases to show my appreciation because, at the end of the day, what's good for their household is good for the community. They've worked so hard and now it's our obligation to provide those increases and we have this opportunity now," he said.

Aside from DOC personnel,

See TORRES on Next Page

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REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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✓ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of federal and/or state grants management systems and any applicable policies, laws and other relevant regulations; and

✓ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of accounting and/or auditing concepts as they apply to state and federal government funds.

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$50K bail set for man accused of molesting woman

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man who was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman after he reportedly forcibly gave her a massage.

During a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Abul Hossain, 58, who allegedly forced a massage on a woman and sexually assaulted her in the process.

Hossain, who was remanded back to the custody of the Department of Corrections after failing to make bail, faces charges of sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bogdan ordered Hossain to return to court on July 27, at 10am for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for Aug. 1, at 9am.

The court also issued a witness summons for Barbara Arend, a Department of Public Safety Tinian detective assigned to the case, to appear at Hossain's upcoming preliminary hearing.

According to court documents, Hossain allegedly sexually assaulted the victim at her home on Tinian last July 9, but the incident was not reported until July 10. The bail hearing was not conducted until yesterday as the defendant still had to be transported to Saipan so he could appear before the court.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruptions set

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, July 20, 2022, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Upper and South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Naftan Road and Obyan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair a 4-inch service lateral leak on Nativo Drive and a 2-inch service lateral leak on Isa Drive near the entrance of Katbon Road. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area as crews will be working on the shoulder of the outer southbound lane. Additionally, portions of Nativo Road will be closed during the repairs.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Power interruption on July 21 in Obyan

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on July 21, 2022, from 9am to 11:30am, affecting Obyan.

- Distribution Circuit: Kiya 1
- Water Wells Affected: OB-14 to OB-24 (10 wells)
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To install and connect primary conductors in Obyan

As a result of the power interruption, water services to Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and Oleai will be affected, based on the tank level. ***(PR)***

PALACIOS

From Page 1

going to offer what they've been offering from the start—an alternative to what the CNMI administration has today.

"And we'll let the people make that decision," he said.

Palacios and Apatang are running in the Nov. 8 general election on an independent platform.

After more than 40 days of being away, Palacios arrived on Saipan last Saturday aboard a flight from Hawaii where he had been medically transferred last June 3.

Palacios said he was mulling over that decision for days when he was by himself in the hospital as his family couldn't even visit him because there was a COVID-19 lockdown.

Palacios also observed that, because of the election period, people "are kind of bashing each other right now" and he said he is going to recommend to his team that they tone down their rhetoric and concentrate on the issues.

He said he wants their team to be a lot more civil with the teams of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the Republican Party and Rep. Christina E. Sablan of the Democratic Party.

"I think we can get it done without creating such divisiveness in our community," Palacios said.

He said the challenge is to try to tell the people and the individual teams to be as civil as much as possible.

As for his health condition, Palacios said there is no timeline in terms of what he needs to follow up. "I just need to…stay out of high-sodium diet and change my diet," he said.

Palacios said he is taking medications to bring down his high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels.

He said he just got to get to a physical therapist on Saipan to continue the therapy sessions that he started in Honolulu.

"It was quite an ordeal, to say the least. But I am certainly happy to be home. I'm also happy that I am okay. I'm recovering fairly well," Palacios said.

STUDY

From Page 1

administers standardized tests.

Gains across income levels partially closed the gap in learning that resulted from the pandemic, researchers found. But students in high-poverty schools had fallen further behind, making it likely they will need more time than their higher-income peers to make a full recovery.

The results are a measured sign of hope for academic recovery from COVID-19. But sustained effort and investment in education remain crucial.

"These signs of rebounding are especially heartening during another challenging school year of more variants, staff shortages, and a host of uncertainties. We think that speaks volumes to the tremendous effort put forth by our schools to support students," Karyn Lewis, director of the Center for School and Student Progress at NWEA, and the study's co-author, said in a statement.

The study used data from more than 8 million students who took the MAP Growth assessment in reading and math during the three school years impacted by COVID. Those numbers were then compared with data from three years before the pandemic.

The study found that if rebounding occurs at the same pace it did in the 2021-2022 school year, the timeline for a full recovery would likely reach beyond the 2024 deadline for schools to spend their federal funds.

COVID

From Page 2

have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 2,064 COVID-19 tests were conducted from July 10 to 16, 2022. ***(PR)***

TORRES

From Page 3

employees of the Department of Public Safety, Department of Commerce, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Finance, Department of Labor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works, and the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor will see a significant increase in their current salaries if this proposal passes the Legislature.

EX-IPI

From Page 1

Former IPI construction workers Özcan Genç, Hasan Gökçe, and Süleyman Köş, through lawyer Richard Miller, filed their first amended complaint against IPI and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. yesterday.

For the most part, the amended complaint is similar to the initial complaint that was filed back in January. The main amendment made was the class definition.

According to the amended complaint, the plaintiffs seek to represent a class, of which they are members, consisting of persons of Turkish national origin who were employed by IPI under the H-2B visa program in 2020 or later.

"The exact number of members of the class is not known at present, and will be determined through discovery. It is estimated that there were about 107 persons of Turkish national origin who were employed by IPI under the H-2B program during 2020 and 2021," the amended complaint said.

Another amendment made was the prayer for relief.

The former IPI workers now seek a hearing at the earliest practicable date and for the court to "cause the case to be in every way expedited."

The plaintiffs also ask that the court certify a class defined as: persons of Turkish national origin who were employed by IPI under the H-2B visa program in 2020 or later.

Lastly, the plaintiffs request that the court award them compensatory and punitive damages, and members of the class on whose behalf claims are asserted, in an amount to be proved at trial, and award them costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees.

According to court documents, back in January, the plaintiffs alleged that IPI practiced discriminatory conduct that resulted in the plaintiffs and other members of the class suffering damages, including but not limited to, reduced wages.

The plaintiffs claim that while they were employed to work on the Imperial Palace casino/hotel resort in Garapan, IPI also hired other construction workers, including Taiwanese construction workers, who also performed the same types of work that the plaintiff did and shared the same skills, qualifications, and experience. However, the Taiwanese workers were paid a higher rate.

Back in May, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted IPI's request to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the workers and gave the plaintiffs until June 27, to refile an amended complaint but, because they could not meet the deadline, the court gave them an extension.

T4G

From Page 1

22-year-old Kubo had almost finished his degree in agriculture at the University of Hawaii when he was drafted in June 1941. Assigned as a medical technician with the 298th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks, he witnessed the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. Six months later, he was sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for training with the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion. Despite attempts to avoid it, Kubo was recruited as a linguist and sent to the Military Intelligence Service Language School. When he graduated in June 1943, he was assigned to a translator/interpreter team and sent to Hawaii to translate captured documents at the Joint Intelligence Center/Pacific Ocean Area. His team deployed overseas in November for operations in the Gilbert Islands.

On June 16, 1944, Kubo was with the 27th Infantry Division when it landed on Saipan. Within 24 hours, the 27th had secured the island's airfield. Meanwhile, the Americans' capture of the Japanese Navy's "Z Plan" had allowed the U.S. Navy to soundly defeat the Japanese fleet in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, which blocked the Japanese garrison on Saipan from resupply or reinforcements. Desperate, 4,500 Japanese troops launched a final attack on July 7. Although Kubo had learned of the pending attack from a Japanese prisoner, the 27th Infantry Division was short of ammunition and the Japanese nearly destroyed two infantry battalions before they were halted.

Saipan was declared secure on July 9, but the work of the 27th was not yet finished. As the remaining Japanese soldiers holed up in caves along the shoreline cliffs, the Army employed flamethrower teams supported by artillery and machine guns to clear them out. First, however, Japanese American linguists used loudspeakers to entice the enemy out peacefully. When that failed, many of the linguists bravely entered the caves to engage the Japanese soldiers personally.

On July 23, 1944, while on patrol with his good friend 1st Lt. Roger Peyre's company, Kubo learned that eight Japanese soldiers had held 122 men, women, and children hostage in a cave for the past 10 days. Voluntarily, Kubo entered the cave, where he found himself facing the rifles of the enemy soldiers. Of Japanese heritage but wearing an American uniform, Kubo had difficulty convincing the soldiers he was not a spy. After a couple hours of discussion, during which Kubo shared his K-rations with the starving soldiers, they released the hostages. As American soldiers began pulling the civilians out of the cave via ropes, however, shots rang out from the nearby jungle, killing Lt. Peyre instantly. Kubo, angered at the death of his friend, confronted and berated the enemy soldiers. Shamed, four of the Japanese soldiers retrieved Peyre's body from the vertical shaft of the cave and then all eight surrendered to Kubo.

Kubo later recalled, "For a couple of days after that I had no desire to save anyone. However, when we saw those ill-nourished women and children, we [Kubo and his bodyguard Pfc. Lyle Nelson] went in again to many other caves." Kubo remained with the 27th for the rest of the war, including operations in Okinawa. Later, he received the Distinguished Service Cross based largely on affidavits from the hostages and Japanese soldiers he had saved that day on Saipan.

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SHINING STAR, INC.
REHABILITATION OF THE SHINING STAR HOTEL BUILDING
(FORMER KOREANA HOTEL)
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)
CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF THE AS GONNO TRANSFER STATION FACILITY

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following projects:

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2022-043 - Shining Star, Inc. is proposing to rehabilitate the former Koreana Hotel building for the operation of the Shining Star Hotel on Juan Nong Street in Chalan Kanoa, District No. 4, Saipan. The hotel is a four-story building composed of thirty-six (36) rooms and ten (10) parking stalls. The hotel building is situated on Lot No. 013 H 38, consisting of an area of about 900 square meters.

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-00-X-129-A1 – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct and operate the As Gonno Transfer Station on Lot No. 046 K 02 in As Gonno, Saipan. The facility includes an office, small track scale, covered tipping floor, roll-off container storage yard, recycling building, ponding basin, septic tank/leaching field, oil-water separator, and small generator for the truck scale.

The public hearing for these projects is scheduled on **Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: *hhttps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315)*. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Rehabilitation of the Shining Star Hotel Building Project and the As Gonno Transfer Station Facility.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Kina Peter joins Triple J management

Triple J announced yesterday the recent hiring of Kina B. Peter as Triple J Saipan's corporate controller.

As corporate controller, Peter will play a key role on Triple J's executive team, and will supervise accounting and financial reporting functions, help establish and implement financial and internal control policies, perform financial risk assessments, and participate in the preparation of annual budgets.

Peter is a certified public accountant and brings an extensive background of in-depth global accounting and finance experience that spans over 20 years, starting with Deloitte where she served as senior auditor, Boeing where she served as senior finance leader, senior accountant, senior manager, and accounting manager and, most recently, as the CNMI's public auditor, carrying out the organization's official mandates, while staying proactive and progressive.

Former CNMI public auditor Kina B. Peter is now Triple J Saipan's corporate controller. TRIPLE J

Peter holds a BA in Accounting from the University of Portland.

"We are excited to have Kina join our group of companies. She complements our strong team-oriented, customer-focused culture. As our group evolves and the economy continues its path to recovery, we need a forward-thinking financial professional to take on the responsibility of managing the monthly accounting activities and developing new systems to streamline the process," said Jeff Jones, president and COO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. ***(Triple J)***

4.7-magnitude quake hits the Pagan region

At 1:26pm on July 19, 2022, a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.819°N 146.585°E in the Pagan region of the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-035

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites.

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2022, 2023 & 2024 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-22-035, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-034

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER GENERATION PLANT SYSTEMS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant Systems on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-034, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant Systems on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 28, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 8, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Mobile clinic boosts CHCC's health outreach services on Saipan

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. unveils its new mobile clinic for the residents of Saipan. KIMBERLY ESMORES

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently unveiled its new mobile clinic for the residents of Saipan, ready to offer services such as well-child check-ups; well-woman check-ups; adult routine check-ups; family planning services; testing and counseling for sexually-transmitted diseases; vaccinations; population health services including mental health services; and referrals to other health, financial, and social services.

The state-of-the-art mobile health bus will operate on a walk-in only basis at scheduled locations.

"Our mobile clinic is an extension of our outpatient services and is meant as a connection to address gaps in accessing health care at CHCC," said chief of Clinical Services Halina Palacios. "We are liaisons between patients and providers to ensure that the community is receiving access to health care from the CHCC."

CHCC worked with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. in 2021 to put together an application to procure a mobile clinic. With financial support awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and NMHC, the CHCC Mobile Clinic expands CHCC's services to address health care access disparities among the CNMI and to work toward improved health outcomes.

"NMHC took care of all the financial and procurement processes, while CHCC communicated directly with the vendor on the build specifications," said Palacios. "It took over a year to build the unit from scratch, especially with delays due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but we are excited to go out into the community and offer medical services."

CHCC intends to meet patients' ongoing needs to address factors that affect their health outcomes, such as transportation, food and housing, health education, and other social assistance. Unmanaged chronic diseases can lead to worse symptoms, disorders, and even death when coupled with COVID-19.

Long-term plans include offering dental services, as well as evaluating the effort on Saipan to support funding requests for similar implementations on Rota and Tinian. ***(CHCC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018A

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 27TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

OFFICE LEASE – WELLNESS CLINIC

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Estates

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SELVINO ATALIG TAISACAN, Decedent.	Civil Action No. 00-0180D
	Civil Action No. 00-0179D
	(Consolidated Probate Cases)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATROCINA E. TAISACAN, Decedent.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Administrator Richard E. Taisacan's Petition for Partial Distribution will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 4th day of August, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Superior Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on July 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from May 25, 2022

II. Public Comment (s)
III. Committee Reports
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
IV. Administrator's Report
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. None
VII. New Business
1. Fall 2022 Application Status
2. Proposed Award Amount for Spring 2023
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Miscellaneous Matters
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/THC-020

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:JULY 25th, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

Design Services for Tinian Health Center (THC) Generator Replacement

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2022

Opening date: July 13, 2022 **Closing date: August 03, 2022**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Internal Auditor	UNGRADED
	(1) Accounts Clerk	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I	PL 4/1 to 4/12 ($8.41/hr. to $14.38/hr.
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(2) General Maintenance I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 03, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/CGC-SOC-022

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 25TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT SPORT UTILITY VAN (SUV)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 8:30a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the BPL-HCPLB Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/25/2022)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- New Legal Counsel – Leslie Healer
- Letter from Juan I. Castro, Jr.
- NCEES Annual Business Meeting August 23 – 26, 2022, Carlsbad, California.

VII. Director's Report
- 2022 Financial Report
- BPL New Website: http://www.cnmilicensing.com
- Office Email Address: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
- Acquiring a New Vehicle for Office Use

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
A. Continuing Education Requirements
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB No.: 42200129

SUBMISSION DATE: August 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Tangan Tangan Drive Road Improvement Phase 2, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 20, 2022** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **August 05, 2022,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 11, 2022** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director,
Division of Procurement Services

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 143

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vaccines during pregnancy? Here's reassurance

A new analysis in a prestigious journal offers timely reassurance about the COVID-19 shots' safety and effectiveness to a vitally important but vaccine-hesitant group: expectant mothers.

Making safety judgments for two is a daunting responsibility during pregnancy. Mothers-to-be are cautious about medications, food, alcohol and cigarettes and anything else that could harm fetal development during this crucial window of time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, that concern has understandably included questions about vaccination against this new viral threat.

Parental due diligence ought now include a critical new review of medical studies involving COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy. Last week, Nature, a highly respected journal, published a systematic analysis of multiple medical studies.

The resulting article is a powerful yet accessible summation of the accumulated science, with data overwhelmingly supporting vaccination. The evidence evaluated 23 studies that included 117,552 vaccinated pregnant women, who "almost exclusively" received mRNA vaccines, meaning either Moderna or Pfizer.

The two-shot series offered impressive protection against infection—close to 90% in the time window studied. In addition, the review found "no evidence of a higher risk" of adverse outcomes such as:

- Miscarriage.
- Premature birth.
- A lower birthweight score.
- Pulmonary embolism.
- Placental abruption, a severe condition that can reduce fetal oxygen and nutrients.

—Stillbirth.

A special note about the last tragic condition listed—stillbirth: Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 may reduce the risk. The Nature analysis reported a "15% decrease in the odds of stillbirth" in those vaccinated, though it also cautioned against interpreting the results as causal.

The authors, however, do not hesitate to draw broader conclusions to guide doctors and pregnant women. "This provides further evidence that the risks of COVID-19 outweigh the rare risks of vaccination in pregnancy, and pregnant people should be encouraged to pursue vaccination, even in the first trimester," they write.

The authors are qualified experts—generally British medical specialists. The publication also took a welcome extra step. The data analyzed is available in a shareable database for anyone wanting a closer look. This transparency, as well as the researchers' careful interpretation of their findings, inspires confidence.

In an age when so many people personally research medical decisions, the new Nature analysis is a must-read for

See VACCINES on Next Page

Frustrated by summer flight delays and cancellations? Here's why they're happening

By SHELDON JACOBSON
Chicago Tribune

Sheldon H. Jacobson is a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

We have entered the busy summer travel season. Since Memorial Day, there have been a slew of flight cancellations and delays that have disrupted business and leisure travelers, pushing everyone's patience to the brink. For example, U.S. airlines canceled more than 2,800 flights around the Memorial Day weekend.

To help air travelers, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg asked airlines to act proactively by testing their flight schedules in advance so any necessary change in plans can be made. He has also threatened penalties against airlines for unacceptable performance.

Cancellations and delays have been attributed to weather, air traffic control and crew member staffing. Airport security checkpoints are also experiencing a slowdown as new computed tomography baggage scanners are being rolled out across the nation.

The problem with using a big stick to reduce flight disruptions is that the cause of the disruptions may be insensitive to the punishment. No airline wants flight cancellations and delays, which create operation disruptions and unhappy travelers.

Weather is beyond anyone's control and routinely disrupts flights when thunderstorms roll into an area around airports or through busy air corridors.

Air traffic control delays can be attributed to weather and airport volume limitations but also staff shortages. The environment has only been exacerbated by people missing time from work due to COVID-19.

Yet the root cause of the cancellations and delays may be traced back to more than two years ago.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, air travel plummeted. It reached a nadir on April 12, 2020, when just 87,534 people were screened at airport security checkpoints. Airlines were bleeding money, and layoffs of pilots, flight attendants and other support people were rampant and unprecedented. The results of a survey reported in early 2021 noted that more than one-half of the world's airline pilots were no longer flying.

The airlines are a service industry, and as such, people are needed to deliver their product. Parking airplanes and equipment that were not needed reduced every airline's fleet in 2020. Layoffs of highly trained people are not like turning off a spigot that can easily be turned back on. The dire financial environment demanded quick and draconian actions by the airlines.

As air travel rebounded, the airlines were in the precarious situation of returning equipment to operation. They also needed flight crews and flight attendants. The challenge has been ramping up all such processes as quickly as demand for air travel has rebounded.

This has created a fragile airline staff scheduling environment.

With limited staff available, any weather or air traffic control hiccup can percolate across the entire air system, with flight cancellations the only feasible response. Given that the Federal Aviation Administration places flight time limitations on pilots, once pilots reach their monthly quotas, they cannot fly until their duty clocks reset. Moreover, with COVID-19 resulting in some flight crew members becoming unpredictably unavailable, a single crew member no-show can shut down a sequence of flights.

The combination of fewer pilots and flight attendants in the airlines' workforce, coupled with COVID-19 infections leading to missed shifts, means that flight cancellations are more probable when any schedule disruptions occur. Until airlines are able to ramp up staff and create larger staffing buffers, the cancellations and delays will continue and are inevitable. This will be particularly true at the end of each month, when pilot quotas may have already been reached.

So what can travelers do? Some little things can make a difference.

Make it as easy as possible for the airlines to turn around their flights. When possible, check large bags rather than bring them onto flights as carry-on bags.

Refrain from taking out your frustration on the flight attendants. Your canceled flight may have also been the flight that takes them home for a brief stopover with their families. Instead, thank them for their hard work and efforts.

The summer travel season may be more turbulent than we would like. Airlines are working diligently to keep flights on tracks, and so threats of penalties serve no useful purpose.

With everyone's patience, understanding and cooperation, the outlook can only get brighter.

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What's missing from the 77-minute Uvalde video?

It's not easy to make sense of the 77-minute video shot from an overhead camera near the classrooms where 19 children and two teachers were murdered in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24.

The video—released last week by the Austin American-Statesman—has an audio track that is garbled to near-unintelligibility. The gunshots—more than a hundred—are audible, but the screams of the terrified children have been, appropriately, erased. The camera captures an important slice of the events of May 24, but only a slice.

In other words, a significant amount of the context is not represented in the video. But there's enough to deeply disturb most viewers.

An initial attempt to subdue the shooter fails. Then the video shows more than an hour of powerful-looking, well-armed men milling around in the hall, apparently uncertain what to do.

Sometimes they barricade behind ballistic shields and train four or five weapons down a long, empty hallway toward the classrooms for minutes at a time. Other times they stroll up and down the same hallway, seemingly unconcerned.

Sometimes the officers—representing at least five law enforcement agencies—appear to be examining the building's floor plan. Sometimes they text or talk on their phones. They gesture, wave, signal each other, appearing to plan and strategize, but then for long minutes nothing happens.

At one point, an armed, helmeted member of the sheriff's department strolls casually through an area previously barricaded by four or five men to use the wall-mounted hand sanitizer dispenser.

In short, it's hard to tell what—if anything—is happening. The word that kept occurring to me as I watched was "confusion."

Experts better trained to evaluate situations such as this one were unsparing in their criticism. Former Austin, Houston and Miami police chief Art Acevedo called the episode "the most incompetent response that I've ever seen. It's not defensible."

Acevedo is correct: The inaction of these officers is impossible to defend. But at the risk of appearing to defend them, I offer two elements of context that aren't immediately apparent in the video:

Despite the bluster and bravado from some quarters, none of us knows how we would behave in these circumstances. After the Parkland, Florida, school shooting that killed 17, former President Donald Trump said that he would have run into the building "even if I didn't have a weapon."

Sure. But people of a more thoughtful turn of mind must concede that while they think they know what they would do, they can't know for sure until they are in the situation.

Of course, this isn't a defense of these officers. Bad leadership and a failure of courage appear to have immobilized them. If they don't have the initiative and courage to act, they are in the wrong profession.

The second element not immediately apparent in the video isn't a defense of them either. But it illuminates the question of responsibility for the failures in Uvalde.

The Uvalde shooter grew up in a culture awash in guns. It's not just the 400 million weapons in the hands of private citizens.

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Gunplay is an essential element of our entertainment, in movies, television and video games. Kids can't be blamed for growing up thinking that weapons are part of what it means to be an American.

The Uvalde shooter evidently had mental problems, but no one paid much attention. Nevertheless, as soon as he turned 18, we gave him legal access to high-powered, high-capacity weapons of war.

A few things the officers milling around confusedly in the hallway could be sure of: The kid was in a defensive position. He was probably ready to die. He very likely had a magazine in his semi-automatic weapon that holds at least 30 rounds.

If you judge these officers harshly, well, they deserve it. But don't forget that we're asking them to do something that you and I might not have the courage to do. And the most important thing that would make these officers' jobs a little safer—limiting access to high-powered, high-capacity, semi-automatic weapons—we absolutely refuse to do.

Lessons from Normandy: War is a tool of last resort

I recently visited the beaches of Normandy and was awestruck at the scale of what took place there 78 years ago. The sheer horror it must have been is hard to capture in words, but the scars are still visible.

Dozens of massive craters dot the fields. The landscape is interspersed with German fortifications reinforced with concrete two meters thick. Huge tangles of metal debris, part of the harbor constructions used to ferry in half a million troops and cargo, are still casually strewn across the beaches and protruding from the water, rusting just off quaint French coastal towns.

It was a massive operation. More than 1,000 aircraft dropped 23,000 paratroops behind German lines in the dark amid incoming fire just after midnight. At dawn, 73,000 Americans joined about 80,000 other allied troops to storm the beaches along 50 miles of coastline.

The morning was cool and the water colder. Soldiers lugging nearly 75 pounds of gear each forced their way through rough seas only to reach a treacherous shore where they would then navigate stakes, metal girders and land mines, all while Nazis rained fire down upon them. Many would die there or farther inland as the battle continued.

How do you motivate anyone to do that? And what would compel anyone to ask so many people to?

These questions were on my mind when I heard of the death of Bradford Freeman, the last living member of the Band of Brothers company thatparachuted into Normandy on D-Day. We've recently lost Hershel "Woody" Williams as well, the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

More than 16 million Americans served in World War II. But we're starting to lose the very last veterans of that war, one of the few we've fought in our history that we can confidently call just.

What lessons should we be learning from the Greatest Generation before they're gone?

I often wonder what my grandfather, a U.S. Marine who served in the Pacific, would say. His faded photos in jungle scenes were intriguing but revealed little, and he said even less about it. He died when I was young, long haunted by what they called "shell shock" back then.

I imagine that he, and many others of his generation, would tell us that war is so horrific that you should avoid it at almost any cost. But if it's something so vital that you simply must fight for it, you better be ready to give it your all.

In many ways, that is the story of America's engagement in World War II. We entered reluctantly—forced by the circumstances of a direct attack on our homeland. We responded with everything we had, and it transformed a culture and economy for generations.

The Normandy invasion was the ugly, painful crowning moment of that response. The logistics were mind-boggling and the plan audacious. But nothing less could turn the war around and save Europe, and the world, from the march of totalitarianism.

In many of the wars we have fought since, we have strayed far from these parameters. We have fought wars that were not essential and even damaging to American security and prosperity. It shouldn't be surprising that we tended to lose these wars of choice. It's harder to fight effectively if it isn't clear what you're fighting for.

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

So what lessons might that offer us today? The war in Ukraine is a good test case. The fight came to the Ukrainian people—they had little choice. We do not face a similar existential threat now, and thus have wisely avoided expanding this awful war beyond Ukraine by getting directly involved in the fight.

But sometimes simply not entering a war isn't enough. The United States and our allies must at times take the necessary steps to deter such aggression. That is the case with Ukraine, and that means using all the tools available to us short of joining the war to help Ukraine succeed.

If Putin's violent land grab in Europe succeeds instead, the international system we helped build and benefit from will be deeply undermined. That system checks aggression and helps keep us safe, prosperous and free. The threat to us directly might not be grave enough yet to risk American lives, but we'd be wise to prevent it from reaching that point while we're still able.

Ukraine's Greatest Generation is being forged today as they fight and die for their country's freedom. Their fight against aggression and authoritarianism echoes the Allies' fight in World War II. By supporting their effort, we can hopefully avoid having to ask another generation of Americans in the future to suffer what Bradford Freeman, Woody Williams, my grandfather and millions of others did.

This is important for Americans to remember today as we contend with economic struggles and domestic strife at home. If we continue to rigorously invest in helping Ukraine with diplomatic, economic and military assistance efforts now, we might not have to fight aggression and authoritarianism ourselves in the future.

VACCINES

From Page 8

those expecting or planning to add to their families.

More than two years into the pandemic, it's clear that COVID-19 will not be eradicated. Sadly, the virus is a particular health threat during pregnancy. "Among women of reproductive age with COVID-19, pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalized and at increased risk for ICU admission and receipt of mechanical ventilation compared with nonpregnant women," according to a report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among the reasons that pregnancy may increase COVID-19 complications risks: immune system changes and stress on both the heart and lungs. "It's well known that pregnancy boosts the risk of serious disease from respiratory viral infections. During the H1N1 flu epidemic of 2009, pregnant women accounted for 5% of U.S. deaths, although they constituted about 1% of the population," reported an article published in Science.

Dr. Sarah Cross, an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health at the University of Minnesota Medical School, reviewed the Nature analysis and pointed out the data's striking consistency—"across the board" favorability—when it comes the COVID-19 vaccination's safety and effectiveness during pregnancy.

Cross, medical director of The Birthplace at M Health Fairview and a mother of three young children, empathizes with patients navigating the careful choices pregnancy requires. She tells expecting patients that the "most important thing for the baby is for you to be healthy." The COVID-19 vaccination, Cross said, is "how you keep yourself healthy."

For those who still have questions, seek out a medical provider. Said Cross: "We want to talk to you. We want to help you be safe. Just ask us."

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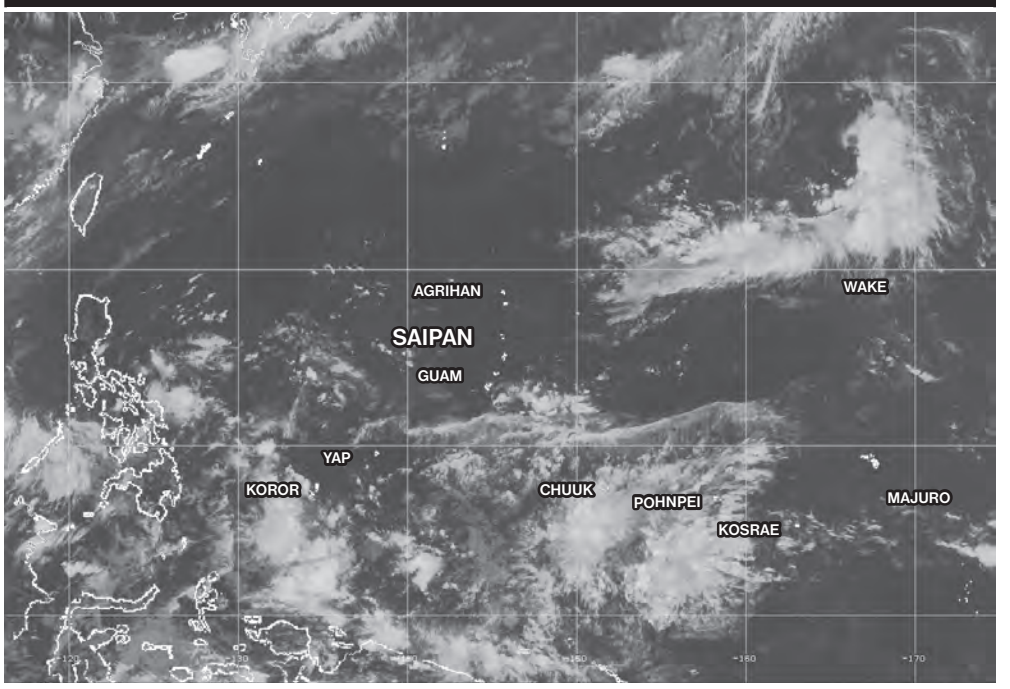
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	87° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:47 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed a few showers over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 75°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 77°
Pohnpei	Few Showers	84° / 76°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:54 AM	-
Thursday	12:00 AM	12:44 PM	-
Friday	12:37 AM	1:34 PM	-
Saturday	1:17 AM	2:25 PM	-
Sunday	1:58 AM	3:17 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain/Thunder	60° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 69°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 83°
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 74°
London	Showers	82° / 62°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	86° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Sunny	54° / 35°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	94° / 77°
Osaka	Cloudy	88° / 76°
Paris	Thunder	79° / 64°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Rome	Sunny	96° / 72°
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 53°
Seoul	Cloudy	88° / 73°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:56 AM	High Tide	2.08
7:37 AM	Low Tide	0.85
1:02 PM	High Tide	1.62
7:04 PM	Low Tide	0.79

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	3, 4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	3, 4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	1, 2, 3, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Hawaii waves swamp homes, weddings during 'historic' swell

HONOLULU (AP)—Towering waves on Hawaii's south shores crashed into homes and businesses, spilled across highways and upended weddings over the weekend.

The large waves—some more than 20 feet (6 meters) high—came from a combination of a strong south swell that peaked Saturday evening, particularly high tides and rising sea levels associated with climate change, the National Weather Service said Monday.

A wedding Saturday evening in Kailua-Kona was interrupted when a set of large waves swamped the event, sending tables and chairs crashing toward guests.

Sara Ackerman, an author who grew up in Hawaii and attended the wedding, filmed the waves as they barreled ashore.

"It just was huge," she said. "I was filming it and then it just came over the wall and just completely annihilated all the tables and chairs."

She said it happened about five minutes before the ceremony was scheduled to begin.

CRAIG T. KOJIMA/HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER VIA AP

People walk in front of the high surf near Kapahulu Groin (Waikiki Wall) in Waikiki, Hawaii, Sunday, July 17, 2022.

"It wasn't like a life-threatening situation by any means whatsoever," she said. "It was just like, 'Oh my gosh ... what are we going to do? Where are we going to put the tables?'"

She said they went ahead with the ceremony and cleaned up the mess after the newlyweds exchanged vows.

"We had the ceremony and it was beautiful, having all the (sea) spray," she said. "The ocean was really wild. So it was great for the photos."

Chris Brenchley, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service office in Honolulu, said several factors came together to create such huge waves.

"Waves over 12 or 15 feet (3.66 or 4.57 meters), those become extremely big and really rare to have," he said. "It's the largest it's been in several decades."

Brenchley said the swell was produced in the South Pacific, where it's currently the winter season.

"They had a particularly strong winter storm where the winds were focused directly towards places like Samoa and then further on to the north into Hawaii," he said.

Remnants of Hurricane Darby passed south of Hawaii but had no major impact on the surf, he said.

While singular events like this hard to pin directly to climate change, Brenchley said the warming planet is playing a role.

"The most direct type of impact that we can use with climate change is the sea level rise. Any time you add just even small amounts of water, you raise that sea level just a little bit," he said. "And now those impacts will be exacerbated whenever we have a large storm event or a ... high, high tide."

Most large summer swells that come from the south are no bigger than about 10 feet (3 meters), which would trigger a high surf advisory.

"We had some waves that were reaching 20 feet (6 meters), 20 feet-plus even," Brenchley said. "That's getting on the level of historic."

Hawaii's north shores, where professional surfers often compete, usually get much larger waves than other parts of the islands. The predominant swell hits the north shores in the winter and the south shores in the summer.

Lifeguards and rescue crews across the state had a busy weekend.

They conducted at least 1,960 rescues on the island of Oahu alone on Saturday and Sunday.

Honolulu officials reported one serious injury when a surfer suffered a laceration to the back of his head.

Seabees, Marines complete multiple engineering projects on Tinian

By PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BRIAN UNDERWOOD
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 3

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian, supported by U.S. Marines with the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, have proudly upheld NMCB-3's "Better Than Best" motto by executing multinational, joint service exercise support, engineering projects, and community relations events while forward-deployed to Tinian. Since the groundbreaking of construction efforts in February 2022, the team continued to showcase their technical skills and unparalleled work ethic.

On the Seabee's Expeditionary Camp Tinian, the joint engineering team demolished two 32-by-16 foot South West Asia huts and one 48-by-16 "super" SWA hut located in a high-flood risk area. These three structures were strategically rebuilt, with the same material at no additional cost, reducing the potential for flood damage. After a heavy storm, the newly-located structures proved to successfully withstand the elements without flooding, and they are now capable of sustaining future units training in Tinian.

Upon completion of SWA hut relocation, the Camp Tinian construction team focused on support for the joint exercise Valiant Shield 2022. The priority efforts included installation of underground utility connections to a lift station and septic tank for wastewater removal, a shower and laundry facility, and regrading a laydown area. These improvements increased the self-sufficiency of the camp, allowing it to support fleet activities in the area of operations and provided comfortable living for units residing on the expeditionary camp.

U.S. NAVY/HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 3RD CLASS ELIJAH ANTOR

Construction Mechanic Constructionman Bailey Rascoe, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, conducts an operations check on a dozer after the Trimble Earthworks system is installed. This new system will allow Detail Tinian to complete their camp elevation project with precision earthmoving.

Detail Tinian also enhanced their technical expertise through on-site contractor-led training from Trimble Inc. Under their guidance, our junior equipment operators and engineer aides learned to install the Trimble Earthworks grade control system for US Navy Seabee bulldozers and graders, allowing operators to precisely grade the camp to specified elevations. They refined the existing topography of the camp to ensure proper drainage of runoff. As a result of this in-depth training, the Tinian earthwork team was able to take advantage of grade control technology and accurately accomplish the task at hand.

Off camp, the top priority was the Marpo Heights Road project. "Better Than Best" Seabees and 7th ESB Marines started the rigorous process of preparing a 1,500-foot roadway for paving after a year-and-a-half stagnation on the project. They remained motivated and eager, as they installed storm water catchment basins, high-density polyethylene pipe, thousands of cubic yards of fill, and a concrete drainage swale along the road's perimeter. Their preparation efforts ultimately led to pave day, when the team placed 330 tons of asphalt along the roadway. This project will serve the local community for many years to come.

The Seabees of NMCB-3 make every effort to be a proactive team that leads by example and succeeds in complex and distributed environments. They are forward-deployed to strengthen partnerships and maintain our readiness skills while fostering relationships and building new partnerships. The security we provide supports regional stability, which in turn promotes prosperity for all regional countries.

U.S. NAVY/HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 3RD CLASS ELIJAH ANTOR

The final paved road from the Marpo Heights project by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 is a durable piece of infrastructure that will serve the local community for years to come.

U.S. NAVY/HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 3RD CLASS ELIJAH ANTOR

Equipment Operator 1st Class Peter Bonebakker guides Equipment Operator 3rd Class Travis Knappenburger, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, as he operates a double-drum roller to compact the newly-placed asphalt pavement.

Business

Economics of war: Agony for Europe now, later for Russia

Across Europe, signs of distress are multiplying as Russia's war in Ukraine drags on. Food banks in Italy are feeding more people. German officials are turning down the air conditioning as they prepare plans to ration natural gas and restart coal plants.

A giant utility is asking for a taxpayer bailout, and more may be coming. Dairies wonder how they will pasteurize milk. The euro has sagged to a 20-year low against the dollar, and recession predictions are on the rise.

Those pressure points are signs of how the conflict—and the Kremlin gradually choking off natural gas that keeps industry humming—provoked an energy crisis in Europe and raised the likelihood of a plunge back into recession just as the economy was rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, high energy costs fueled by the war are benefiting Russia, a major oil and natural gas exporter whose agile central bank and years of experience living with sanctions have stabilized the ruble and inflation despite economic isolation.

In the long run, however, economists say Russia, while avoiding complete collapse, will pay a heavy price for the war: deepening economic stagnation through lost investment and lower incomes for its people.

Europe's most pressing challenge is shorter term: battle record inflation of 8.6% and get through the winter without crippling energy shortages. The continent relies on Russian natural gas, and higher energy prices are flowing through to factories, food costs and fuel tanks.

Uncertainty weighs on energy-intensive industries like steel and agriculture, which could face natural gas rationing to protect homes if the crisis worsens.

Molkerei Berchtesgadener Land, a large dairy cooperative in the German town of Piding outside Munich, has stockpiled 200,000 liters (44,000 gallons) of fuel oil so it can keep producing power and steam for pasteurizing milk and keeping it cold if electricity or natural gas to its turbine generator is cut off.

It's a critical safeguard for 1,800 member farmers whose 50,000 cows produce a million liters of milk a day. Dairy cows have to be milked daily, and a shutdown would leave that ocean of milk with nowhere to go.

"If the dairy doesn't function, then the farmers can't either," managing director Bernhard Pointner said. "Then the farmers would have to discard their milk."

In one hour, the dairy uses the equivalent of a year's worth of electricity for a home to keep up to 20,000 pallets of milk cold.

The dairy also has stockpiled packaging and other supplies to guard against suppliers being hit by an energy shortage: "We have a lot stored ... but that will only last a few weeks."

The economic woes also appear at the dinner table. Consumer groups estimate a typical Italian family is spending 681 euros (dollars) more this year to feed themselves.

"We're really concerned about the situation and the continuous increase in the number of families we're supporting," said Dario Boggio Marzet, president of the Food Bank of Lombardy, which groups dozens of charities that run soup kitchens and provide staples to the needy. Their monthly costs are up 5,000 euros this year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Delta places order for 100 Boeing 737 aircraft

Delta is ordering 100 737 Max 10 airplanes, the largest of the line produced by Boeing, potentially giving the manufacturer additional momentum after a troubled rollout of its most advanced aircraft. Delta has an option to purchase 30 more of the aircraft as the airline looks to keep up with surging travel demand. Boeing has struggled to keep up with its European rival Airbus after a pair of 737 Max aircraft crashed in a short span of time, killing 346 passengers and crew members. Airlines are aggressively trying to reduce costs and the 737 Max can help them do that. Delta Air Lines said Monday that the airplanes, which can seat up to 230 people, will reduce fuel consumption and emissions by 20% to 30% compared with the planes it will replace.

European leaders ink energy deals in bid to sidestep Russia

ROME (AP)—European leaders ramped up their push to secure alternative energy supplies Monday as fears escalate of a complete natural gas cutoff by Russia, with the leaders of Italy, France and the European Union sealing deals with their counterparts in Algeria, Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates. With his government's fate in limbo back home, Italian Premier Mario Draghi visited Algeria's capital of Algiers, seeking to cement the North African country's role as a preeminent regional partner. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune said a $4 billion deal would be signed Tuesday to supply "a significant quantity of gas." "Algeria is a very important partner for Italy, in the energy sector, in the industry and business fields, in the fight against criminality, and in the search for peace and stability in the Mediterranean," Draghi said. Also Monday, France and the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement on energy cooperation to ensure oil and natural gas supplies from the Gulf country.

Republicans warm to $52B computer chip bill, adding momentum

WASHINGTON (AP)—Key Republicans are warming up to passing a bill that provides roughly $52 billion in incentives for the semiconductor industry now that Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia has quashed the idea of imposing higher taxes on the rich and corporations as part of a separate Democratic-only effort. Three weeks ago, the computer chips bill looked like it could be in trouble despite having bipartisan support. That's when Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said there would be no such bill as long as Democrats pursued what he called a "partisan reconciliation bill." But Manchin's decision to dramatically narrow the Democratic effort and axe the tax hikes appears to have opened the window for Republican cooperation on semiconductors. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who endorsed McConnell's approach, said on the Senate floor Monday that Manchin's announcement on taxes means "we're in a posture where we can go forward with the chips funding and other related provisions." "I hope we will be able to take action on that in the coming days," Cornyn said.

Nation

Toddler, two more kids among 6 killed in Montana highway crash

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A 3-year-old and two other children were among the six people killed in a pileup last week on a Montana highway during blackout conditions caused by dust storms, officials said Monday.

First responders work the scene on Interstate 90 after a fatal pileup where at least 20 vehicles crashed near Hardin, Mont., Friday, July 15, 2022. AP

Three of the six people who died in the crash just west of the small community of Hardin were children, said Montana Highway Patrol Sgt. Jay Nelson. Officials did not provide the ages of the children except for the toddler.

The pileup happened Friday afternoon after sudden, strong winds with gusts up to 60 mph (97 kph) kicked up dust from farm fields, causing blackout conditions for a mile-long (1.6-kilometer long) stretch of Interstate 90, a major route across the northern United States.

All of the victims were from Montana. The Big Horn County coroner's office had not made their names, ages and hometowns public by late Monday afternoon.

Nelson also said that 11 people were injured, including three who were hospitalized in critical condition.

There were 29 people in the 21 vehicles from nine states and one Canadian province that crashed and the six people who died were in three different vehicles. The vehicles that crashed included six commercial semi-trucks.

I-90 is the longest U.S. interstate highway in the country, stretching 3,020 miles (4,860 kilometers) from Seattle to Boston.

The crash happened about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Montana's largest city, Billings, during a peak summer traffic hour for people commuting home from work or traveling for outdoor recreation.

The wind that caused the dust storm was ahead of thunderstorms that moved into the area. Nick Vertz, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Billings, described it as a surge of wind that kind of appeared out of nowhere.

ACROSS THE NATION

US midshipman plunges to death at Chilean waterfall

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—A midshipman from Texas died after falling over a waterfall in Chile, the U.S. Naval Academy announced Monday. Midshipman 2nd Class Luke Gabriel Bird of New Braunfels, Texas, was participating in a semester abroad program at Chile's Arturo Prat Naval Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy said in a news release. The 21-year-old junior was hiking with a student from the school Saturday near the Salto El Agua waterfall in Placilla, in the Valparaíso region when he reportedly lost his footing and fell over the waterfall, the academy said. Chilean authorities found Bird's body in the waterfall's lagoon Sunday. "We are incredibly saddened by the tragic loss of Midshipman Luke Bird this weekend," Vice Adm. Sean Buck, the U.S. Naval Academy's superintendent, said in a statement. "I encourage all of our Naval Academy family to offer support to one another as we navigate the grieving process."

5 shot, hurt in Washington state Walmart amid altercation

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. (AP)—A customer and an employee of a Walmart were shot and injured along with three young men who authorities said were involved in an altercation inside the store Sunday, police said. The Seattle Times reported police received calls about shots being fired inside the building shortly before 10 p.m. Sunday. Investigators believe the shooting happened after a group of men entered the store and got into an altercation with another group of men who were already in the store, police said. Injured in the shooting were a 72-year-old customer, a 24-year-old employee and the three 19-year-old men allegedly involved in the altercation, police said. Authorities did not announce any arrests and did not know the conditions of the victims. Three victims were taken to a hospital by emergency workers and two arrived in private vehicles, police said.

Former White House aides to testify at next Jan. 6 hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two former White House aides are expected to testify at the House Jan. 6 committee's prime-time hearing Thursday as the panel examines what Donald Trump was doing as his supporters broke into the Capitol, according to a person familiar with the plans. Matthew Pottinger, former deputy national security adviser, and Sarah Matthews, a former press aide, are expected to testify, according to the person, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and requested anonymity. Both Pottinger and Matthews resigned immediately after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection that interrupted the congressional certification of President Joe Biden's victory. The two witnesses will add to the committee's narrative in its eighth, and possibly final, hearing this summer. The prime-time hearing will detail what Trump did—or did not do—during several hours that day as his supporters beat police officers and broke into the Capitol. Previous hearings have detailed chaos in the White House and aides and outsiders were begging the president to tell the rioters to leave. But he waited more than three hours to do so, and there are still many unanswered questions about what exactly he was doing and saying as the violence unfolded.

Asia

S. China authorities apologize for COVID-19 forced break-ins

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in southern China apologized for breaking into the homes of people quarantined for being suspected of contracting COVID-19 in the latest example of heavy-handed measures that have sparked a rare public backlash.

The Communist Party newspaper Global Times reported Tuesday that 84 homes of people sent for isolation in Guangzhou city's Liwan district were opened in an effort to find close contacts remaining inside and to disinfect the premises.

The doors were later sealed and new locks installed, the paper reported.

The district government apologized for such "oversimplified and violent" behavior, the paper said. An investigation team has been set up to investigate and "relevant people" will be severely punished, it said.

China's leadership has maintained its hard-line "zero-COVID" policy despite the mounting economic costs and disruption to the lives of ordinary citizens, who continue to be subjected to routine testing and quarantines, even while the rest of the world has opened up to living with the disease.

Numerous cases of police and health workers breaking into homes around China in the name of anti-COVID-19 measures have been documented on social media. In some, doors have been broken down and residents threatened with punishment, even when they tested negative for the virus. Authorities have demanded keys to lock in residents of apartment buildings where cases have been detected, steel barriers erected to prevent them leaving their compounds and iron bars welded over doors.

China's Communist leaders exert stringent control over the government, police and levers of social control. Most citizens are inured to a lack of privacy and restrictions on free speech and the right to assembly.

However, the strict anti-COVID-19 measures have tested that tolerance, particularly in Shanghai, where a ruthless and often chaotic lockdown spurred protests online and in person among those unable to access food, health care and basic necessities.

Authorities in Beijing have taken a gentler approach, concerned with prompting unrest in the capital ahead of a key party congress later this year at which president and party leader Xi Jinping is expected to receive a third five-year term amid radically slower economic growth and high unemployment among college graduates and migrant workers. A requirement that only vaccinated people could enter public spaces was swiftly canceled last week after city residents denounced it as having been announced without warning and unfair to those who have not had their shots.

"Zero-COVID" has been justified as necessary to avoid a wider outbreak among a population that has had relatively little exposure to the virus and less natural immunity. Although China's vaccination rate hovers at around 90%, it is considerably lower among the elderly, while questions have been raised about the efficacy of China's domestically produced vaccines.

Sri Lanka's Parliament readies to accept names for president

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's Parliament was preparing Tuesday to accept nominations to elect a successor to its ousted president, amid political turmoil that threatens to worsen instability as the country endures its most severe economic crisis in recent memory.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country last week after protesters outraged by the crisis stormed his official residence and occupied other key public buildings. He later submitted his resignation via an email to the speaker of the parliament.

Three lawmakers— the leader of the main opposition Sajith Premadasa, former government minister Dallas Alahapperuma and Marxist party leader Anura Dissanayake have said they will contest Wednesday's parliamentary vote.

Acting President and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has not said he will run, but statements from Rajapaksa's party, which still holds a majority in Parliament, expressed backing for him. This has angered many who see his possible election as an extension of the Rajapaksa rule and a potential comeback for the beleaguered political family.

Separately on Tuesday the Supreme Court was set to decide whether Wickremesinghe's appointment as acting president last week by the speaker of the parliament was legal. If it is pronounced illegal, Wickremesinghe may become ineligible to run for president.

Students and political activists said they planned protests Tuesday. Some intimidating posts circulating on social media warned lawmakers against returning to their constituencies if they vote for Wickremesinghe.

Parliament was heavily guarded by hundreds of soldiers, its entry points barricaded. Staff at parliament and reporters were thoroughly searched before they were allowed to enter.

Sri Lanka's economy has collapsed, its foreign exchange reserves depleted, and it has suspended repayment of foreign loans. Its population is struggling with shortages of essentials like medicine, fuel and food.

Indonesian military jet trainer crashes, killing pilot

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian military jet crashed on a nighttime training mission on the main island of Java, killing its pilot.

The South Korean-made T-50i Golden Eagle was conducting tactical intercept training when it went down into bushes late Monday in Central Java province's Blora district about an hour after taking off from Iswahyudi Air Base in the neighboring province of East Java, military spokesperson First Marshal Indan Gilang said.

The last contact between the jet and air base was at 07:25 p.m. Villagers found parts of the severely damaged jet in the bushes, and the pilot's body was recovered from the crash site, Gilang said.

The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known.

The jet was one of 16 T-50i Golden Eagles developed by Korea Aerospace Industries with Lockheed Martin and received by the Indonesian air force in 2014. One of them crashed while performing in the Yogyakarta Airshow in 2015, killing the two pilots on board.

Indonesia's defense ministry last year ordered six more of the T-50i Golden Eagle trainers from South Korea.

World

Europe broils in heat wave that is fueling fires in France, Spain

AP

This photo provided by the fire brigade of the Gironde region (SDIS 33) shows a wildfire near Landiras, southwestern France, Sunday July 17, 2022 .

LA TESTE-DE-BUCH, France (AP) — A heat wave broiling Europe spilled northward Monday to Britain and fueled ferocious wildfires in Spain and France, which evacuated thousands of people and scrambled water-bombing planes and firefighters to battle flames in tinder-dry forests.

Two people were killed in the blazes in Spain that its prime minister linked to global warming, saying, "Climate change kills."

That toll comes on top of the hundreds of heat-related deaths reported in the Iberian peninsula, as high temperatures have gripped the continent in recent days and triggered wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans. Some areas, including northern Italy, are also experiencing extended droughts. Climate change makes such life-threatening extremes less of a rarity—and heat waves have come even to places like Britain, which braced for possible record-breaking temperatures.

The hot weather in the U.K. was expected to be so severe this week that train operators warned it could warp the rails and some schools set up wading pools to help children cool off.

In France, heat records were broken and swirling hot winds complicated firefighting in the country's southwest.

"The fire is literally exploding," said Marc Vermeulen, the regional fire service chief who described tree trunks shattering as flames consumed them, sending burning embers into the air and further spreading the blazes.

"We're facing extreme and exceptional circumstances," he said.

Authorities evacuated more towns, moving another 14,900 people from areas that could find themselves in the path of the fires and choking smoke. In all, more than 31,000 people have been forced from their homes and summer vacation spots in the Gironde region since the wildfires began July 12.

Ukraine seeks to strengthen government

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—As Russia kept up its relentless shelling across the country, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expanded the shakeup of his security services on Monday by suspending 28 more officials, a day after he dismissed two senior officials over allegations that their agencies harbored "collaborators and traitors."

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said a "personnel audit" of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) was underway, and the dismissal of the 28 officials was being decided.

"Different levels, different areas of focus. But the reasons are similar—unsatisfactory results of work," Zelenskyy said.

On Sunday, he had fired SBU chief Ivan Bakanov and Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova. Zelenskyy, citing hundreds of criminal proceedings into treason and collaboration by people within their departments and other law enforcement agencies.

"Six months into the war, we continue to uncover loads of these people in each of these agencies," said Andriy Smirnov, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office.

Another riot in Ecuadorian prison leaves 13 inmates dead

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — At least 13 inmates were killed in a riot at an Ecuadorian prison, officials said Monday, more than two months after a clash between rival gangs left 44 dead in the same lockup.

The penitentiary system said on its Twitter account the riot took place in the Bellavista prison in Santo Domingo, 70 kilometers (44 miles) south-west of Quito, Ecuador's capital. Two inmates were injured.

Authorities said the situation inside the prison was under control.

On May 9, the authorities reported another riot inside the Bellavista prison with a death toll of 44 inmates. After the clash, the authorities said that they found firearms, explosives and other weapons.

The penitentiary system in Ecuador has seen several fights between gangs, and the government in the past has blamed confrontations on drug gangs linked to Mexican cartels. ***(AP)***

Good Housekeeping

5 TIPS FOR ADDING ABSTRACT ART TO YOUR SPACE

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Mirrors in a series helps to reflect abstract art along this long hallway.

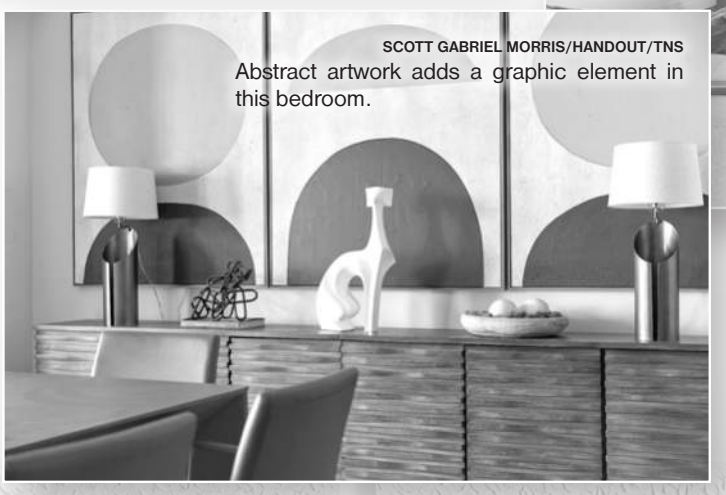
SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Abstract artwork adds a graphic element in this bedroom.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Multiple pieces of abstract art in similar color palettes creates a soothing mood in this living space.

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Artwork can both blend into the background and make a bold statement. Regardless of how you wish to incorporate artwork into your decor, abstract art can be a key way to bring in color and graphic elements that typically don't clash with other elements in a space.

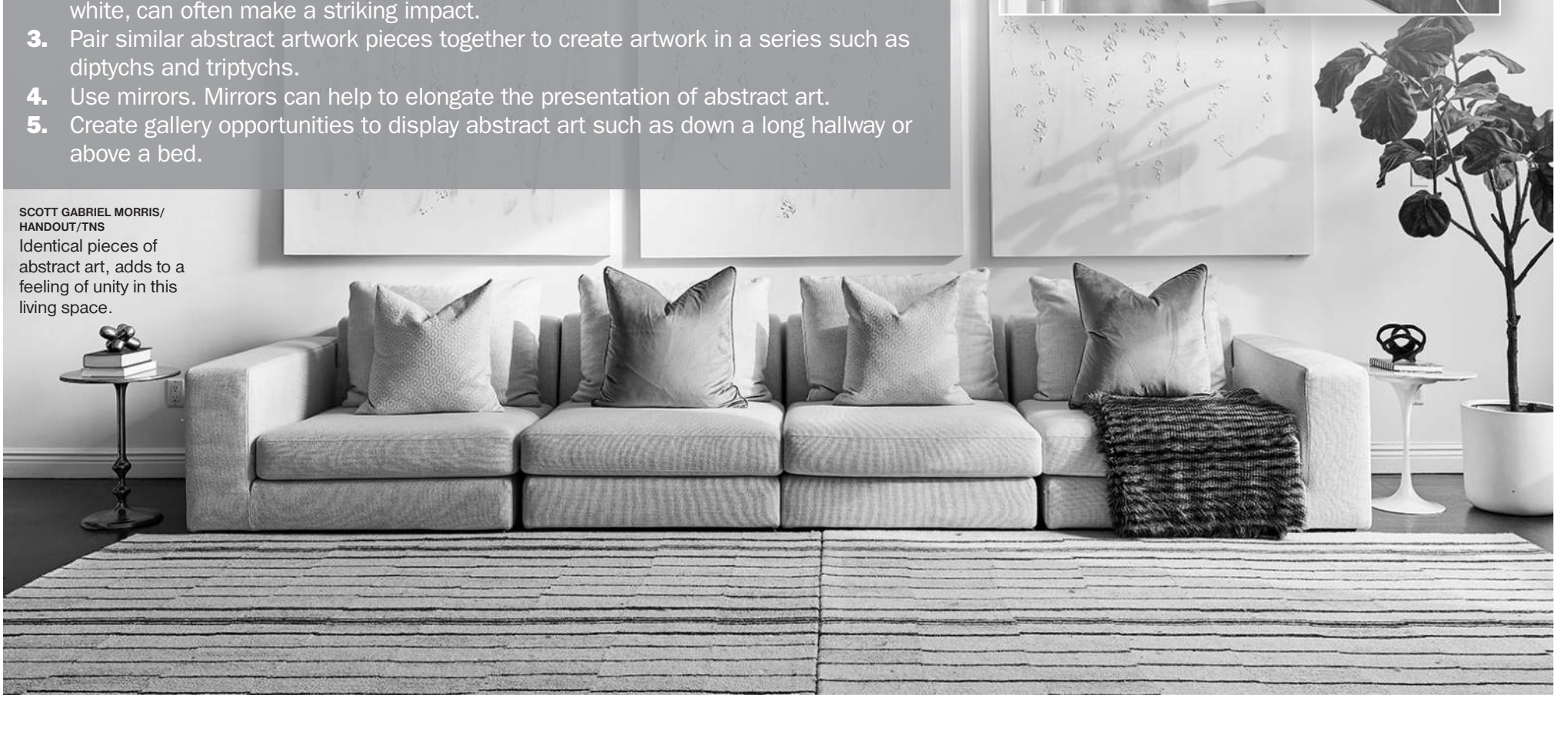
When looking to infuse abstract artwork into your home, here are some top tips.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Abstract artwork adds a graphic element in this bedroom.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Multiple pieces of abstract art make a dramatic statement down a long hallway.

1. Consider a monochromatic color palette. In a modern space, a monochromatic color palette often feels crisp and clean.
2. Incorporate a sense of contrast. Colors that are boldly different, such as black and white, can often make a striking impact.
3. Pair similar abstract artwork pieces together to create artwork in a series such as diptychs and triptychs.
4. Use mirrors. Mirrors can help to elongate the presentation of abstract art.
5. Create gallery opportunities to display abstract art such as down a long hallway or above a bed.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS
Identical pieces of abstract art, adds to a feeling of unity in this living space.

Life & Style

Prosecutor: Judge reneged on promise in Polanski abuse case

LOS ANGELES (AP)— A Los Angeles judge privately told lawyers he would renege on a promise and imprison Roman Polanski for sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 1977, a former prosecutor testified, setting the stage for the renowned director to flee the U.S. as a fugitive.

A previously sealed transcript of testimony by retired Deputy District Attorney Roger Gunson, obtained by The Associated Press on Sunday, supports Polanski's claim that he fled on the eve of sentencing in 1978 because he didn't think he was getting a fair deal.

Gunson said during closed-door testimony in 2010 that the judge broke a promise to let Polanski go free after county probation and state prison officials had determined he shouldn't serve hard time.

"The judge had promised him on two occasions ... something that he reneged on," Gunson said. "So it wasn't surprising to me that, when he was told he was going to be sent off to state prison ... that he could not or would not trust the judge."

Polanski's victim testified before a grand jury that during a photo shoot at Jack Nicholson's house in March 1977 when the actor wasn't home, Polanski gave her champagne and part of a sedative, then forced her to have sex. The girl said she didn't fight him because she was afraid of him but her mother later called police.

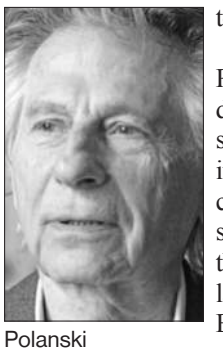
When the girl refused to testify in court, Polanski pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with a minor in exchange for prosecutors dropping drug, rape and sodomy charges. She has since called for an end to the case.

Polanski was "ecstatic" with the transcript that helps vindicate his reason to flee to Europe, defense lawyer Harland Braun said Monday. Braun said he'll use the transcript to renew efforts to have Polanski sentenced to the time he served during a prison evaluation in 1977 and house arrest decades later in Switzerland.

"He's waiting to see what happens next," Braun said. "This is the first chance that he's really had in this case."

Braun wants Polanski to be sentenced without having to appear in court because he fears he'll be arrested and jailed as a fugitive if he returns to the U.S. Prosecutors have previously rejected that request, saying Polanski needs to show up in Los Angeles Superior Court to resolve the matter.

Release of the transcript, which was ordered by a California appeals court Wednesday after Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón dropped longstanding objections his predecessors made to its release, may support Polanski's claims that he was going to be railroaded by a corrupt judge.


Polanski

The legal saga has played on both sides of the Atlantic as a recurring scene over four decades of a life marred by tragedy and also triumph.

As a child, Polanski escaped the Krakow Ghetto during the Holocaust. His wife, Sharon Tate, was among the seven people murdered in 1969 by followers of Charles Manson.

Polanski, 88, who was nominated for Oscars for 1974's "Chinatown" and 1979's "Tess," won the best director statuette for "The Pianist" in 2003. But he wasn't able to accept it because he faces arrest in the U.S.

France, Switzerland and Poland rejected bids to extradite him back to the United States and he continues to be feted in Europe, winning praise and working with major actors. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, however, expelled him from its membership in 2018 after the #MeToo movement spurred a reckoning about sexual misconduct.

Polanski has argued that there was judicial misconduct in his case. In 2010, a Los Angeles court took sealed testimony from Gunson about his recollections of promises made to the director by the judge in 1977.

Polanski's lawyers, who were in the room during Gunson's testimony but couldn't use it in subsequent hearings after it was sealed, have long sought to unseal that transcript to help their case.

Judge Laurence Rittenband, now deceased, had been swayed by publicity in the case and changed his mind several times about the punishment Polanski should face, Braun said.

After a report by probation officials that Polanski should serve no time behind bars, Rittenband sent the filmmaker to state prison for a 90-day diagnostic evaluation to help determine what punishment he should face.

The judge said that as long as Polanski received a favorable report from the prison, he would serve no additional time, Gunson said.

After six weeks of evaluation in prison, Polanski was released with a recommendation he only serve probation, Braun said.

But Rittenband thought the probation and prison reports were superficial and a "whitewash," said Gunson, who agreed they downplayed or misstated Polanski's crimes.

The judge privately told Gunson and Polanski's lawyer that he had to be tougher because of criticism in the news media. He said he would send Polanski to prison for a longer term but would then get him released within 120 days, which was possible under sentencing rules at the time.

"Roman says, 'How can I trust the judge that's lied twice?' So he takes off to Europe," Braun said.

The Chainsmokers to perform at the edge of space

NEW YORK (AP)—One of The Chainsmokers' latest hits is "High" and they're hoping to live up to their lyrics.

The hit-making duo of Drew Taggart and Alex Pall have signed up to get into a pressurized capsule tethered to a stratospheric balloon in a few years and perform asome 20 miles above the Earth.

The feat would make Taggart and Pall the first musical artists to perform at the edge of space, said Ryan Hartman, chief executive officer at fledgling space tourism company World View, to The Associated Press.

World View says The Chainsmokers will be on one of the company's inaugural flights slated for 2024 and will record a performance from inside the capsule, giving viewers the ability to experience the music and the trip firsthand.

"We have always dreamed of going to space and are stoked to collaborate with World View to have this adventure and experience," said The Chainsmokers in a statement. "We know the views of both Earth and space are going to be incredible and inspiring and we hope to leverage this flight for creativity on future projects."

The Chainsmokers have had five Top 10 Billboard Hot 100 hits, including "Closer" "Paris," "Don't Let Me Down" and "Something Just Like This" with Coldplay in 2017.

Hartman said that while most of the people who have made space flights are scientists and engineers, World View hopes sending up artists might "inspire them to do something different than they would have otherwise done."

"We think about inspiring new perspectives and how those new perspectives can lead to a radically improved future for our Earth," said Hartman. "To be able to reach the audience of The Chainsmokers through Alex and Drew's work contributes to our mission as well. It's something that I'm personally inspired by and excited about."

World View is part of a new wave of private space exploration firms offering seats to the public, a list that includes Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and SpaceX. Each World View balloon capsule is planned to seat eight passengers and reach a peak altitude of 100,000 feet (30,480 meters). Each flight will last six to 12 hours.

Picking The Chainsmokers for the honor was, in part, a personal decision as well as an attempt to excite a younger audience. Hartman said he watched as his youngest son belted out lyrics from the duo's songs and was inspired by the band's popularity. He explained the flight to the pair over dinner.

"I have just seen firsthand and personally how their music reaches a lot of different groups, a lot of different age groups and just how passionate they are about their music and their art. It matches our passion for what we do," he said.

Rumors and lies envelop divorcée living abroad

DEAR ABBY: I retired to Malaga, Spain, after my marriage of 38 years ended in divorce. I have gone to dinner with a few men since moving here. This is a lovely community with many retired residents from all over Europe and the U.K. My problem is, after a few dates, they assume that because they bought me dinner it entitles them to sex. I am fit and fairly attractive, but I may be out of touch on dating.

These men have implied to others that we DID have sex, and now single and married men are calling me. The only way they could have gotten my number is through these men. I have tried to make light of this, but I'm worried that when my sons or grandchildren visit next month, they will hear something that isn't true. How do I stop this nonsense without causing hard feelings?

NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL

DEAR NOT LIKE THAT: What has been done to you is vile and disgusting. Someone you refused to have sex with has retaliated with the equivalent of writing your phone number on a bathroom wall. Tell your sons NOW what has been going on so they will be prepared when they visit. And if you accept any more invitations, make clear IN ADVANCE that you will be paying for your dinner yourself.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been trying to have a child for nine years with no success. We have been through 14 rounds of fertility drugs, only two of which were successful, but neither one produced a child. My husband wants me to stop treatments because he doesn't like what the medications do to me, and I have agreed to stop because I think my body is just too tired. But, Abby, all of me wants to be a mother. Must I give up, or should I keep trying even though it might lead to further heartbreak?

MATERNAL IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MATERNAL: Listen to your body. It may be time to consider other options than fertility drugs. These include fostering, adoption or hiring a surrogate to help. These are subjects to pursue, first with your husband, then your physician and possibly an attorney who specializes in adoption law. And don't forget, it isn't unheard of for some women who adopt to later become pregnant without medical intervention. I wish you luck on whichever path you choose.

DEAR ABBY: My son is getting married for the third time. I paid for half of his first wedding and also gave a generous gift. I gave him a significant cash gift for his second wedding. Do I give him and his new bride yet another cash gift?

They are planning a small wedding overseas, which I won't be attending. All have been—or will be—first weddings for the brides. I don't want the new bride to feel slighted, but on the other hand, it's getting really expensive for me. They live a nomadic life, so material gifts would not be appreciated by them. What's a perplexed mother to do?

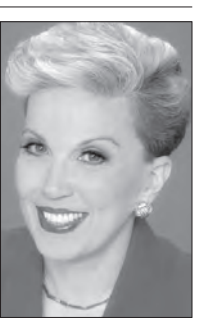
DISGUSTED MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: Write them a check and hope the third time is the charm for your nomadic son. Then tell him you're closing your checkbook.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

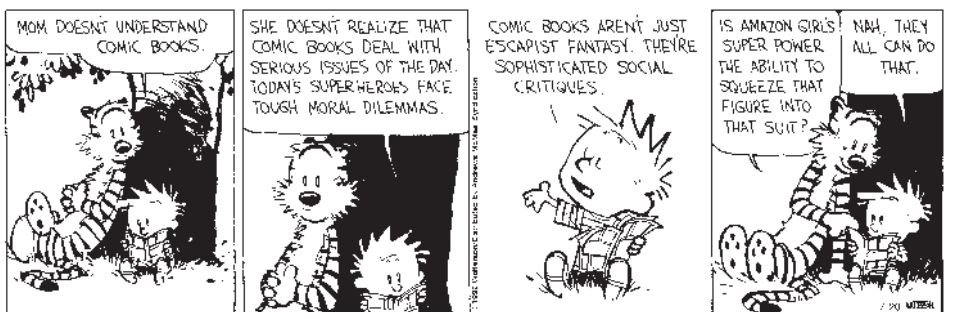


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM DOESN'T UNDERSTAND COMIC BOOKS.
SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT COMIC BOOKS DEAL WITH SERIOUS ISSUES OF THE DAY. TODAY'S SUPERHEROES FACE TOUGH MORAL DILEMMAS.
COMIC BOOKS AREN'T JUST ESCAPIST FANTASY. THEY'RE SOPHISTICATED SOCIAL CRITIQUES.
IS AMAZON GIRL'S SUPER POWER THE ABILITY TO SQUEEZE THAT FIGURE INTO THAT SUIT?
NAH, THEY ALL CAN DO THAT.

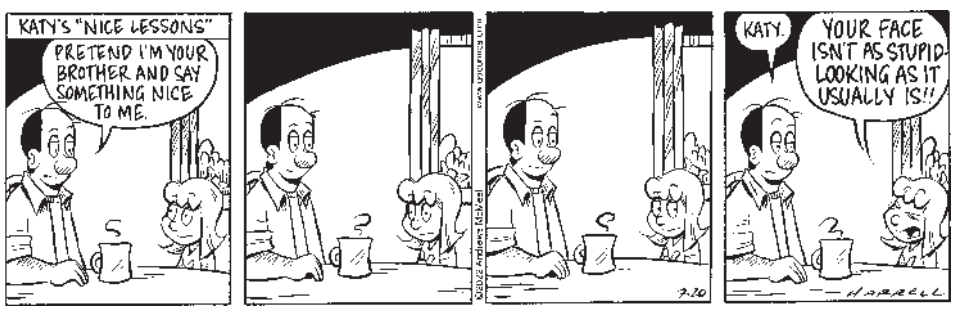
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"DEAR ASK A DOG, DO DOGS HAVE SUPERPOWERS?"
BARK, BARK, BARK, BARK
THAT'S TRUE
HUMANS HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST "SUPER PUPPY DOG FACE"
JIM DAVIS 7-20

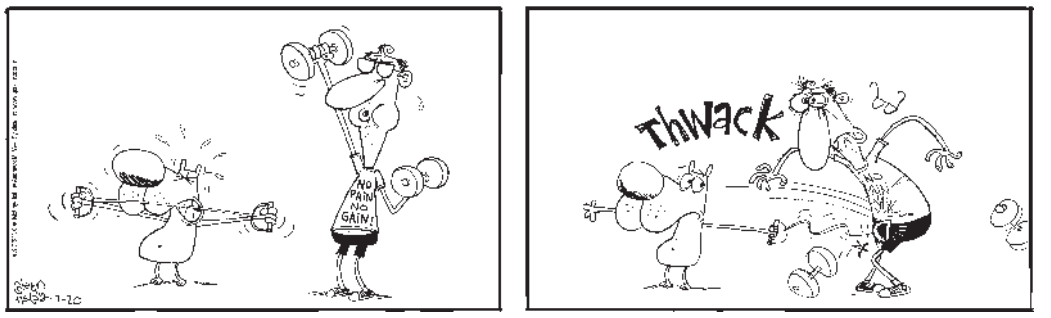
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY'S "NICE LESSONS"
PRETEND I'M YOUR BROTHER AND SAY SOMETHING NICE TO ME.
KATY.
YOUR FACE ISN'T AS STUPID-LOOKING AS IT USUALLY IS!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

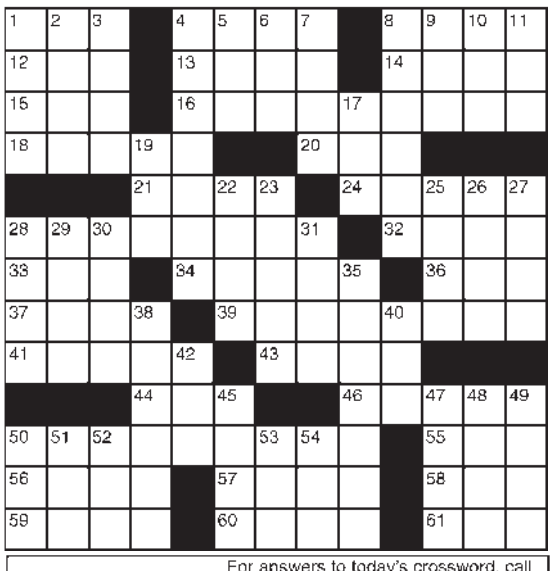
ACROSS
1 Bit of butter
4 "Dream on!"
8 Half (Pref.)
12 "Kinda" suffix
13 Mandolin's kin
14 Redact
15 LAX info
16 Embraces among team members, say
18 Mideast peninsula
20 "Gee, ya think?"
21 Nevada city
24 Pansy part
28 Floor coverings
32 Luau dance
33 Paul Newman film
34 Refine metal
36 Male turkey
37 "M*A*S*H" star
39 Pub vessels
41 Sand castle site
43 Clear the decks?
44 Gear-wheel tooth
46 Mary Poppins, e.g.
50 Hydrants
55 Tic-tac-toe win
56 Totals
57 Mine, to Marcel
58 — de mer
59 Sheepish remarks
60 Swimmer Biondi
61 Moody rock genre

DOWN
1 Slapstick arsenal
2 Italian wine region
3 Compared to
4 North African capital
5 California's Big —
6 "Am — blame?"
7 Family fight
8 Sneaky laugh
9 Sch. URL ender
10 "Top Gun" target
11 TGIF part
17 Young seal
19 Coach Parseghian
22 Feeling no pain
23 Curved moldings
25 Ballet wear
26 Sleep like —
27 Felonious flights
28 Melville captain
29 Hold sway
30 Icelandic epic
31 Whole lot
35 Trains, buses, etc.
38 Entry
40 CEO's deg.
42 Jump
45 Glitz partner
47 Alaskan seaport
48 Linguist Chomsky
49 Present-day "carpe diem"
50 "Terrif!"
51 Wyo. neighbor
52 Vitamin stat
53 Hollywood's Thurman
54 Acquired

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	O	M	B		A	R	C	H		C	A	B
B	R	I	C		H	A	H	A		O	L	E
C	O	R	N	M	A	Z	E	S		M	O	C
			B	E	B	E		S	O	B	E	R
A	S	C	O	T			C	L	E	O		
B	E	A	N		S	U	P	E	R	M	A	N
U	L	M		M	E	S	A	S		E	C	O
T	A	P	I	O	C	A	S		B	A	N	G
		J	R	N	S			M	O	L	E	S
G	E	S	S	O		O	B	O	E			
R	U	M		C	A	K	E	M		X	E	S
I	R	A		L	I	R	C		N	O	D	E
P	O	P		F	I	A	N		G	C	U	T

Yesterday's answer 7-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 34; Sandra Oh, 51; Josh Holloway, 53; Carlos Santana, 75.

Happy Birthday: Avoid temptation by aligning yourself with stable, hardworking people. Put your energy into something that counts, and dedicate your time to helping others and making the world around you a better place. Leave nothing to chance; it's up to you to keep things copacetic if you want everything to fall into place. Don't wait; change begins with you. Your numbers are 4, 18, 25, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Refuse to let your emotions step in and ruin things for you. Put your ego aside and do what you do best. Let the results speak for you, and you'll sidestep interference from someone who can make your life difficult. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be observant, but don't think everyone else has answers or insight into what you can or should do next. Only you can be the one to decide your strengths and weaknesses. Compensate for your shortcomings by sharing what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Hunker down and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Consider your dreams and push forward. It's OK to be different and to trust and believe in yourself. Say what's on your mind and let the chips fall where they may. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Find a method that works for you. Limit your intake and dimmish your responsibilities. Moderation will help you turn chaos into gratification. Know what you want and be intent on following through with your plans. Peace and love conquer all. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stop worrying about what others do. Put your heart into what you know and do best. Don't let compliments go to your head, causing you to offer too much to something that doesn't benefit you. Take care of your needs first. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Seize the moment, do your thing and bask in the glory. You've got whatever you choose to conquer if you don't hesitate or overreact. A strategic plan executed with precision will change the way others see you and how you see yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotional challenges will surface if you let things get to you. Size up situations before you launch a counterattack. Ask questions and take the initiative to bring about positive change. Say no to temptation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You know how to play, but losing doesn't come easy. Don't let anger seep in and manifest into something you cannot control. Challenge yourself physically and exhaust all feelings that can lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Spend more time nurturing what you've worked so hard to acquire. Good relationships take work, and building a solid home base takes ingenuity and cash. Look for a unique way to get the most out of what's available. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Observe, calculate and adjust. Having a flexible attitude will encourage positive change. Don't put up with wasteful people, hangers-on and those taking advantage of your kind heart. Stay focused on doing what's right and best for everyone. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take the reins and charge forward independently. Waiting around for others or taking a role as a follower, not a leader, will not get you where you want to go. You'll find your calling if you are frank about your quest. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a unique approach to something you long to master. The skills you gain will raise your value and escort you down a path that encourages you to be passionate about life. Someone you least expect will offer sage advice. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, playful and generous. You are novel and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		4		2		
	1		3		5		6	
	2						8	
		7	4	5	9	8		
			6		8			
			7		2			
	7	1				6	3	
8								5
	9	5	1	6	3	7	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	8	4	6	2	9	3	7	1
7	9	1	3	4	8	2	6	5
2	3	6	1	5	7	8	4	9
9	4	2	5	1	3	6	8	7
1	6	8	9	7	2	4	5	3
3	7	5	4	8	6	9	1	2
4	2	9	7	6	5	1	3	8
8	1	7	2	3	4	5	9	6
6	5	3	8	9	1	7	2	4

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WISH ON THE WISHBONE Solution: 8 letters

P	D	F	L	A	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	T
T	I	D	E	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	E	T	H	F
A	S	R	O	A	P	O	I	N	T	W	S	A	I	E
B	H	I	G	O	S	R	C	F	O	E	N	N	C	L
L	T	B	W	O	F	T	I	P	T	K	G	N	K	C
E	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	N	S	E	A	O	N	I
G	K	C	U	L	D	O	O	G	R	H	O	F	E	V
A	M	U	P	G	E	C	I	S	C	C	T	U	S	A
T	K	L	L	M	H	V	H	R	E	F	R	T	S	L
N	A	A	A	F	I	Y	A	I	O	C	U	U	N	C
A	E	E	Y	N	E	C	S	C	C	O	R	R	A	O
V	R	M	G	K	K	P	U	L	L	K	S	E	P	L
D	B	A	R	E	I	S	H	A	P	E	E	T	T	D
A	M	U	D	T	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	N	E	G
E	T	R	U	S	C	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	E	R

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Advantage, Ancient, Bird, Break, Chance, Chicken, Clavicle, Cold, Contest, Control, Cook, Cracked, Culture, Dish, Dream, Etruscan, Feast, Find, Fingers, Fluke, Focus, Food, Fortune, Future, Game, Generation, Good Luck, Grip, Meal, Play, Point, Power, Pull, Rooster, Secret, Shape, Snap, Table, Thanksgiving, Thickness, Tips, Tough, Traditional, Turkey, Twist

Yesterday's Answer: Headbands

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

NBA's Summer League has international influence

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Tim Cone is the Phil Jackson of coaching basketball in the Philippines. He's the Gregg Popovich. He's the Bill Belichick.

Technically, those comparisons sell Cone a bit short. Jackson, Popovich and Belichick — a trio that's among the greatest coaches in recent decades across pro sports — have combined for 22 championships as head coaches in their leagues. Cone has 24.

Yet for the last couple of weeks, Cone was an assistant coach for the first time in his life. He was on the Miami Heat staff during NBA Summer League, looking for new ideas, new things to teach, different ways to think about the game.

"It's just been eye-popping for me," Cone said. "Honestly, the whole reason I'm here is to bring things back, introduce them to our league. Because you know, anything that's good, it's copied. So I'm going to bring things back, do some things over there that's new, other coaches will pick it up and hopefully that'll elevate all of us in our league and elevate the level of basketball."

AP

Miami Heat assistant Tim Cone, right, watches during the first half an NBA summer league basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks, Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Cone's presence was just part of this year's international feel to Summer League, which almost always has some sort of element that serves as a reminder of the game being a global one. China and Croatia sent their national teams to Summer League in past years, and this summer, there were no fewer than 86 international players on the rosters in Las Vegas — meaning roughly one in every five players in the league were born outside of the U.S.

And the world is watching: For example, when Fanbo Zeng of China got his first basket of Summer League for the Indiana Pacers, it became national news in his country.

"He's got a great feel for the game," Pacers assistant coach Ronald Nored said.

Some of the foreign-born players in Las Vegas will be on NBA rosters this season. Others will end up in the G League, and many will play overseas.

Cone's future wasn't in any doubt: He is headed back to the Philippines on Thursday to resume his season. He coaches Barangay Ginebra in the Philippines Basketball Association, perennially the most successful team in the league. And this experience will make his star shine a little more brightly, especially given who he was spending time with in Las Vegas.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra is a Filipino-American. Basketball is the national sport in the Philippines, and the Heat are always huge news there because of Spoelstra — who has visited his mother's homeland in the past amid great fanfare and will be back next year as part of USA Basketball's coaching staff for the Basketball World Cup if the Americans qualify as expected.

Cone, like Spoelstra, is an Oregon native. They've known each other for years. The seeds for Cone joining the Heat summer staff were planted a few years ago when a player from the Philippines came to Las Vegas for work with another NBA team.

"I was on the phone with Spo and he goes, 'Why aren't you here, doing that with us?'" Cone said. "That was like three years ago and then the pandemic happened. Last year, we were in the playoffs in my own league back home, so I couldn't come. This year, we spoke again, and the subject was brought up. Lo and behold, I'm here. And I mean, it just has been an amazing, amazing experience."

Spoelstra points to Cone's 24 championships and calls him an "absolute legend."

"Tim, obviously, has such extensive head coaching experience," Spoelstra said. "He's been a great resource. Tim has great emotional intelligence. He's extremely humble. He's here for a great experience. From a head coaching perspective, he's a great guy to just bounce ideas off. It's been really good for both sides."

And Cone's presence in Las Vegas was just another reminder that the game is more global than ever.

"There's no question about it now," Spoelstra said. "There's players coming from every single region."

Coaches, too.

Wolves co-owner Alex Rodriguez says NBA has welcomed him

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Alex Rodriguez was standing near his courtside seat, oblivious to a few fans who were snapping a quick photo of the baseball great as they walked by.

He was watching the Minnesota Timberwolves warm up instead.

Rodriguez — currently part of the Timberwolves' ownership group, with plans in place for he and business partner Marc Lore to assume control from Glen Taylor and become primary owners next year — said Wednesday that he's enjoying his transitions from baseball to basketball and from player to executive, and noted that he's still learning.

"I mean, I come at it from a different perspective, being in baseball for about a quarter of a century, and now it's interesting to take my experience from Major League Baseball, from broadcasting and now being here as an owner," Rodriguez said in an interview with The Associated Press before watching Minnesota's Summer League game in Las Vegas against Milwaukee. "It's been great. The NBA has welcomed me with open arms."

And the Wolves haven't exactly been sitting around idly since Rodriguez and Lore started their ownership process.

AP

Former MLB player Alex Rodriguez applauds with Micky Arison, owner of the Miami Heat, before Game 1 of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series against the Boston Celtics, Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in Miami.

Minnesota has been one of the biggest stories in the league this offseason, first by luring executive Tim Connelly away from the Denver Nuggets to take over as president of the Timberwolves. Then came the trade — acquiring Rudy Gobert from Utah for a slew of players and draft picks, a move that created perhaps the top frontline in the NBA with Gobert playing alongside Karl-Anthony Towns.

"It's all about the fans in Minnesota. I think they deserve a winner," Rodriguez said. "They deserve consistency, they deserve continuity. And I think across the board, we've seen that. ... If you're a fan, there's a lot to cheer for. There's a lot to be excited about. And I think when you can forecast predictability, it's good for the energy of the town."

Taylor agreed to sell the Timberwolves for $1.5 billion last year to Lore and Rodriguez. Lore became Walmart's e-commerce chief in 2016, when the retail giant bought his Jet.com startup in an attempt to boost online business.

Rodriguez hit 696 home runs over 22 major league seasons, with the New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers. His last season on the field was 2016, marking the end of a career that was tainted by performance-enhancing drug use he later admitted to. He has invested in an array of businesses outside of basketball, serves as a trustee at the University of Miami — the baseball stadium there bears his name, even though he never played for the Hurricanes — and now finds himself learning a new game.

But he already speaks of it like a seasoned pro, talking about what Wolves guard D'Angelo Russell can do in pick-and-roll situations, how he thinks Gobert — a three-time defensive player of the year — is underrated offensively and why it was important to extend coach Chris Finch's contract this past spring.

It's busy, and that's what he wants.

"Team ownership is 365, 24/7," Rodriguez said, "I knew that (NBA Commissioner) Adam Silver and his team were great, but they're even better than what they project. His senior management team, all the way through, they're really incredible, they add tons of value. And I think they're great at welcoming people, whether you're a player, media, owner, executive into the room, and they know how to do that better than anyone."

All-Star Game decided by a HR derby if tied after 9 innings

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Pete Alonso was in the visitors' clubhouse at Truist Park last week when an attendant made a puzzling request: Would the New York Mets slugger take a call from Atlanta Braves skipper Brian Snitker?

"Why is the opposing manager calling me?" Alonso recalled thinking.

He quickly found out. Snitker was preparing to manage the National League All-Star squad and had an important question, based on a first-time, fan-friendly rule change.

If the score was even after nine innings in the All-Star Game on Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium, Snitker asked, would Alonso participate in the new tiebreaking Home Run Derby that would decide the winning team?

"I'll be your guy," Alonso recalled telling him. "I think it's fun. I think it's going to be a great event if that does happen."

AP

New York Mets' Pete Alonso takes photos with fans during batting practice a day before the 2022 MLB All-Star baseball game, Monday, July 18, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Alonso wasn't aware of the novel format, in which three players from each league would take three swings apiece to decide the final result. He wasn't alone in finding out what could be on deck.

"That would actually happen?" Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton said. "This is news to me."

Snitker also picked Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. and Philadelphia's Kyle Schwarber for NL, while Houston's Dusty Baker selected Seattle's Julio Rodríguez and Ty France along with Houston's Kyle Tucker for the AL.

With the All-Star Home Run Derby always popular the night before the game, Major League Baseball decided to make a slugging showcase part of the Midsummer Classic.

And no doubt, now a lot of fans will be rooting for a tie, just to see another launch of longballs.

Players, too.

"Are they doing that? That would be fun," Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman said. "We got Pete Alonso and Ronald, so I like our chances."

The provision paving the way to the innovation was buried in exhibit 13 of the memorandum of understanding that settled the MLB lockout in March 10.

Alonso has 24 home runs, third in the NL, and had won the Home Run Derby two straight times going into Monday's competition.

The rules of the tiebreaker, obtained by The Associated Press on Monday, state "the manager of each league's All-Star team shall select three players on his team's active roster who have agreed to participate in the All-Star tiebreaker, if applicable; one alternate player from his active roster who has agreed to participate in the All-Star tiebreaker, if necessary due to injury to a tiebreaker selection; an All-Star team coach who will throw batting practice during the All-Star tiebreaker; and an All-Star team bullpen catcher who will catch during the All-Star tiebreaker."

Play would be paused briefly after the ninth inning "to allow the grounds crew to reconfigure the field in an arrangement suitable for the tiebreaker."

In the tiebreaker, "each player can take an unlimited number of pitches without it counting against their swing total. Players on each team may hit in any order during the All-Star tiebreaker; provided, however, the batters from each team shall alternate."

As the visiting team, the AL would send a hitter to bat first, and players from each league would alternate.

"Once all six tiebreaker selections have completed their swings, the team with the most home runs shall be declared the winner of the All-Star Game," the rules state. "In the event the teams have the same number of home runs following the tiebreaker, each manager shall select one tiebreaker selection to participate in another round in which the tiebreaker selection from each team takes three swings to break the tie. The aforementioned head-to-head format will continue until the tie is broken."

The three batters picked by a league for the tiebreaker cannot be replaced unless injured or to protect player health.

The All-Star Game has gone to extra innings 13 times since it began in 1933, the last two times 10 innings in both 2017 at Miami and 2018 at Washington. Teams running short on pitchers has become an issue as managers try to get most pitchers in the game by the ninth inning, and the 2002 game at Milwaukee ended a 7-7, 11-inning tie when there were no available pitchers left.

A couple years ago, MLB was set to try out the automatic runner on second base if the All-Star Game went to the extra innings.

Thanks to Snitker, Alonso was ready to swing away in a new way of deciding who wins the All-Star Game.

"He had to tell me about the Home Run Derby stuff, because I didn't know about it," Alonso said.

Bosox ace Chris Sale broken left pinkie by liner, return uncertain

NEW YORK (AP)—A fast glance at his finger told Red Sox lefty Chris Sale, sadly, all he needed to know.

Broken pinkie on his pitching hand, damaged by a line drive. Another setback in an injury-plagued year for the Boston ace, his future for the rest of the season uncertain.

Sale screamed out in pain Sunday after being struck by Aaron Hicks' 106.7-mph liner with two outs in the first inning at Yankee Stadium. The ball deflected into right field for an RBI single that gave New York a 3-0 lead.

"One look at this finger, I knew (it was broken) immediately," Sale said. "That feeling of just that kind of cold water rushing through your body when something like that happens. I soon as I hit the ground, I looked down, the finger is gone."

Sale immediately ran off the field, holding up his fractured finger. He was hurt on the final day of play before the All-Star break in a game Boston lost 13-2.

Boston manager Alex Cora didn't rule out a return for Sale this season. The seven-time All-Star was to see a hand specialist in Boston later Sunday or Monday.

The 33-year-old Sale was making his second start since returning from a fractured rib. He threw 78 pitches in five scoreless innings Tuesday at Tampa Bay, and tossed 24 pitches against the Yankees before being forced to leave.

"We really felt bad about it," New York ace Gerrit Cole said. "It's well documented how hard he works and what he's had to overcome to put himself in this position.

"It's a good thing he's got the tenacity that he has to continue. He's got all the high character qualities that you're going to need to have to overcome something like this. It's just so unfortunate that he didn't even get a foothold before it happened," he said.

During the Major League Baseball lockout, Sale broke a rib while working out on his own.

Sale, who is signed through 2024 in a five-year, $145 million deal, has thrown just 48 1/3 innings for the Red Sox since the end of the 2019 season.

Last season, he went 5-1 with a 3.16 ERA in nine starts in his return from Tommy John surgery.

Red Sox reliever Hirokazu Sawamura replaced Sale. Boston is 16 1/2 games behind the AL East-leading Yankees, who have the best record in the majors.

Trout joins Harper on All-Star sidelines, 6 players added

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout will miss the All-Star Game because of back spasms, joining Bryce Harper on the sidelines and depriving the showcase of two of baseball's best-known players.

Dodgers star first baseman Freddie Freeman was added Sunday as the 14th replacement player, giving the host Dodgers six All-Stars to match the New York Yankees for most.

Trout, a three-time American League MVP, has not played since Tuesday and was scratched from the Los Angels Angels' lineup against the Dodgers on Saturday night.

Trout was replaced on the AL roster Sunday by Seattle infielder Ty France for Tuesday night's game at Dodger Stadium.

The 30-year-old Trout is a 10-time All-Star and was elected to start for the ninth time. He finished second to Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge in voting among AL outfielders, with 39%.

Harper, a two-time NL MVP, is a seven-time All-Star selected to start for the sixth time. He broke his left thumb when hit by a pitch from San Diego's Blake Snell on June 25.

Minnesota's Byron Buxton will replace Trout in the AL's starting lineup.

Houston's Justin Verlander, the Yankees' Gerrit Cole and Atlanta's Max Fried were dropped from the active rosters on Sunday after making weekend starts. Milwaukee pitcher Corbin Burnes dropped out Sunday along with New York Mets outfielder Starling Marte.

Relievers Liam Hendriks of the Chicago White Sox, Jordan Romano of Toronto and Devin Williams of Milwaukee were picked as replacements along with Freeman and St. Louis pitcher Miles Mikolas.

Mikolas gets a $50,000 bonus for his selection, Hendriks $15,000 and Romano $10,000.

About one-fifth of the rosters have changed since the original 33-man teams were announced on July 6 and 8.

Los Angeles Dodgers left-hander Tyler Anderson, Miami first baseman Garrett Cooper, San Diego infielder Jake Cronenworth, San Francisco left-hander Carlos Rodón, Toronto infielder Santiago Espinal, Boston designated hitter J.D. Martinez, Atlanta third baseman Austin Riley and Texas shortstop Corey Seager were among previous additions.

Houston second baseman Jose Altuve, Astros DH Yordan Alvarez, St. Louis third baseman Nolan Arenado, Miami second baseman Jazz Chisholm Jr., Milwaukee closer Josh Hader, Harper and Toronto outfielder George Springer were among those who dropped out, most because of injuries.

After being added, Rodón was then dropped because of a cracked nail and blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand.

Four of 18 starters have been replaced: Altuve by Cleveland's Andrés Giménez, Chisholm by the New York Mets' Jeff McNeil, Harper by Atlanta's William Contreras and Trout by Buxton.

Alex Tudela tops SGA tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Alex Tudela came on top of a four-way tie for first place to win Saipan Golfers Association's May Ace of the Month Tournament held last May 15 at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tudela edged Mariano Fajardo, Rick Kautz, and Juan L. Babauta via scorecard tiebreak after all four golfers finished with net 70s. The May winner's 70 was built around an 81 gross after the 11-handicapper shot a 42-39 in the front and back nine.

Fajardo finished runner-up after firing a gross of 97 following a 44-53 splits. Kautz completed the Top 3 after he matched Tudela's net 81 after the 11-handicapper went 43-38 in the half and half. Babauta settled for first place after the Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director had a pre-handicap score of 84 (42-42).

With the win in the May tourney, Tudela now joins Edward C. Sablan (January), Frances M. Sablan (February), Nick C. Sablan (March), and Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (April) in the season-ending 2022 SGA Ace of the Year Tournament.

In the closest to the pin competition, Frances Sablan beat all comers in hole No. 6, Attorney General Edward Manibusan was without peer in hole No. 8, and Kautz and Babauta aced it in holes No. 12 and 15.

In the longest drive, veteran par-buster Nick Sablan brought the lumber in hole No. 1 and Manibusan also made the long shot in the final hole at No. 18.

Tudela

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more of this and bring back the season."

He said they were taught the basics during the clinic which was a good thing because "everybody needs to go back to the basics. It's been a while since we've all been on the field."

Teigita said as well that the clinic was good and that the CNMI players who taught them "know what they're doing."

On Day 1 of the clinic, the boys warmed up, did some calisthenics, and did some throwing. They were then taught defensive drills on the infield and the outfield through the pitching machine provided by SBL and were taught pitching mechanics as well.

Day 2 consisted of batting mechanics and their skills for both defense and hitting were displayed during a scrimmage between the boys which lasted almost the whole day.

Yamada, who was seen at the field assisting Jones, said that the clinic is a great opportunity "to give back to our community. We're all getting older so we need the younger generation now to step up and take over as we slowly start to move out of the league… This won't be the first and last. We'll try and continue the clinics going as we progress throughout the year and season."

Cruz was seen on Day 2 of the clinic watching the boys hard at work. He told *Saipan Tribune* that he is "really proud of the players that came up to give back to the community, back to the youth from learning from their experience in the Mini Games. It's time for them to give back and teach the youth so that baseball can grow and more of the youth can actually love the sport."

He added that all the boys who came out have potential but "it's all about fine tuning their techniques, their skills, their IQ for the game… That's all they need is guidance because there's always talent around this area, this region, Oceania in general. We have a lot of talent here. All they need is the proper training facility and proper coaching."

At the end of the two-day clinic, Jones huddled the boys together for some inspirational words and recapped what was taught over the two days. He told them, "it was an awesome two days having you all out."

He further said that they all had potential and to continue working on their skill—batting, throwing, and pitching. Jones said he knows there's currently no league but that they can continue to improve even with just taking out one hour of their day to practice.

LEIGH GASES

Participants and mentors of the two-day free clinic hosted by members of the CNMI National Baseball Team pose for a group photo at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field last week.

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and field. The best part was going as part of a team—we enjoyed the shared experience and are so proud to be able to represent CNMI. It was gratifying to let others know about who we are as a running team and a people; we've made some great connections in the running world!"

Sildrey Veloria, meanwhile, said his first trip to the U.S. mainland will now forever be seared in his memory because of the experience in Eugene.

"It was my first time on American soil. The culture at Eugene was totally different from what I was used to on Saipan. The weather there was a lot cooler and I felt like I could run anytime of the day. Hopefully I can come back soon to Eugene."

The Northern Marianas College student said it was also a thrill to meet different Olympians of different events from different countries.

"It was a different experience seeing it live in front of our eyes instead of watching it through the TV. I would like to thank Oceania Athletics, ASICS Corp., World Athletics. and Northern Marianas Athletics for a wonderful trip to Oregon and I hope to experience more great trips in the future," he said.

Simon Necessito, who like Dela Cruz also ran the 5K, said he's just glad to be part of Team Run Saipan.

"What's good about events like these is that it is non-competitive. These are the moments where we don't worry about time and we focus on building camaraderie through matching our fellow runner's pace. I look forward to participating in more group runs in the near future!"

Like Veloria, it was also Dan Dan Middle School teacher's first time in the U.S. mainland.

"This was my first time being on the continental side of the United States. Everything about Oregon took me by surprise. Temperatures, especially during the morning and evening, can get as low as 60 degree Fahrenheit. To be able to watch the World Athletics Championship this year made me feel electrified! I felt the hype with the crowd and each event was a memorable one for the books."

Jalen Lucido thanked his lucky stars for agreeing to be part of Team Run Saipan when Dela Cruz asked him late last year.

"It was a great opportunity to be part of the Worlds. Watching it live and getting to see all the best athletes from around the world in person was amazing. It is definitely one of those experiences that comes once in a lifetime and I would never forget it. I'm so very grateful for my running team, if it wasn't for the close-knit running group that I am a part of, I wouldn't have been here. Thank God for Run Saipan," said the recent graduate of University of Hawaii-Manoa.

A sixth member, Gerald Galang, missed the trip due to prior commitments.

Last November, Team NMI Run Saipan finished 1,596th out of 5,952 teams that competed in the ASICS World Ekiden 2021 after completing the 42-kilometer virtual relay in a time of 4:43.46. By completing the race, the team entered a shortlist of teams that potentially could get a shot at taking part in the 2022 World Athletics Championships. Needless to say, they got their tickets punched to Eugene and are now coming back home.

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winning marlin and *Robalo*'s record-setting 125.5-lb yellowfin were scratched from the total weight race.

Sablan said they were pretty fortunate to win the total weight considering that fish weren't really biting during the one-day fishing tournament last Saturday.

"We're obviously quite shocked it won the total catch weight but other than Ivan's monster yellowfin all other fish were relatively small in comparison to previous derbies," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Tan Holdings executive said *Islas Marianas* went straight to traditionally rich fishing grounds soon after steaming from the Smiling Cove Marina early Saturday morning.

"I had been hearing that fishing within shoreline waters had not been successful for several boats that went out earlier in the week and so I was dead set on heading out to Esmeralda Banks. We got as far out west as you could get onto structure within the banks and it paid off because we were chasing a boil all within one square mile of the area for most of the morning and all our lures hit and caught at least one fish," he said.

Sablan said he's simply overjoyed winning the total weight category alongside his close friends.

"I'm stoked that *Islas Marianas* won and sweeter that the win was with my brothers—John Pan and Ivan. Appreciate my niao John Pan and John Aldan for getting the fishing machine built and ready in time for the derby!"

Next up for Sablan and the crew of *Islas Marianas* is next month's fishing tournament in neighboring Guam where majority of the $3,000 winnings will be spent.

"The spoils will go to getting our team ready for the Greg Perez Memorial Derby from Aug. 20 to 21 in Guam and if we're lucky there then we can party hard," he said with the party part uttered in jest.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that the crew of *Rose 1* won the grand prize and Governor's Cup after reeling in the heaviest fish of the tournament—a 131.1-lb marlin. It pocketed $3,000 courtesy of MarPac and Budweiser plus another $6,000 on the side bet.

Another boat that hit the jackpot in the abbreviated derby is the crew of *Robalo* after it landed a record-breaking 125.5-lb yellowfin. By topping the previous record of 106 lbs, the crew of the boat skippered by Ivan Ilmov also took home a cool $2,500 courtesy of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. *Islas Marianas* placed second in the category with a catch of 24.4 lbs, while *Defiance* rounded out the Top 3 with a 16.5-pounder.

In the wahoo category, MV *Tivana* ruled the roost with a 22.9-lb fish, followed by *St. Christopher* and *Maya* with catches of 15.3 lbs and 13.8 lbs, respectively.

San Juan narrowly beat out *Marilyn* and *Islas Marianas* in the skipjack category after reeling in an 18-pounder compared to the former's 17.4 lbs and the latter's 17.1 lbs. Lastly, *10-7 #2* was No. 1 in the mahi category after netting a 3.6-pounder. It was the lone mahi caught in the derby.

NBA's Summer League has international influence

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National players give back to community

LEIGH GASES

Over 20 participants joined the two-day free clinic hosted by members of the CNMI National Baseball Team that included Joshua Jones, Shane Yamada, Franko Nakamura, John Paul Sablan, and assistant coach Gary Cruz at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field last week.

By LEIGH GASES
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The CNMI National Baseball Team in collaboration with the Saipan Baseball League gave back to the community with a free two-day baseball clinic for children 18 years old and younger.

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games gold medalists Joshua Jones, John Peter Sablan, Franko Nakamura, Shane Yamada, and CNMI National Baseball Team coach Gary Cruz were seen at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball field last Friday and Saturday with the boys who came out to learn more about the sport.

Among the boys who joined were Antonio Norita and Isaiah Teigita, both of whom were baseball prospects during the University of Guam baseball clinic that was held last May. Both will be heading off to the University of Guam to play baseball while earning their college degrees in criminal justice.

Norita was asked how the clinic was going during the first day and he said it was, "Pretty good. It's fun getting a chance to get on the field and do our thing. I think I can say the same for everybody else. Hopefully we have

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Team Run Saipan completes 'amazing' experience

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team NMI Run Saipan wrapped up their stint as ambassadors of Oceania during the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon with two of their members even taking part in a 5K run to start the marathon competition.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., one of the runners of the 5K, said just being part of the Worlds was already a dream come true, but to be able to do the 5K was the icing on the cake.

"It was amazing. A lot of the runners came across the country. We had max participation. Believe in the Run, Kofuzi, various prominent running clubs and distinct runners, Asics corporate leaders and even their CEO and president were there. It was an impressive showing."

Dela Cruz said he had never seen so many runners running 5Ks at the pace of 5:28/mile or faster during the mass running event.

"I'm pretty sure 200 people out of the 800 met this pace. This 5K was very unique and for sure something no one else will experience unless Asics pulls this again at the same caliber. What was even more impressive was the leaders of Asics America and Japan participated as well and led their employees from the front."

To top it all off, the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting staff said Asics hosted a marathon after-party right off the course to showcase their new tech of shoes.

"The most insane part of this race was they were letting runners test drive their carbon-plate $250 super shoes for free by the hundreds. No one, not even Nike would ever do something like that. What topped this 5K was the fact we got to witness the world's greatest marathoners start their race and we start right after. Then after we were done we had a front row seat to watch the marathon finish. I don't know if anyone else can ever top the experience Asics just gave the running world," he said.

Dela Cruz went on to thank World Athletics, Oceania Athletics Association, and Northern Marianas Athletics for making their trip to Oregon possible.

For Jenna Kong, Run Saipan vice president and Commonwealth Health Center physician, the trip to the World Championships was simply unforgettable.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see some of the world's top athletes in track

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team NMI Run Saipan members, from left, Simon Necessito, Jalen Lucido, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Jenna Kong, and Sildrey Veloria unfurl the CNMI flag during the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Islas Marianas wins total weight category

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Islas Marianas proved that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts after winning the total weight category in last Saturday's 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Captain Alex Sablan and crewmen Ivan Quichocho, John "Pan" Guerrero, Gilbert Borja, and John Aldan caught fish with a combined weight of 37.5 lbs to win the $3,000 prize money.

As per Saipan Fishermen's Association rules, boats that already won in major categories don't qualify for the total weight category hence *Rose I*'s winning 131.1-lb

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Islas Marianas captain Alex Sablan, left, poses with crew mates and some of the fish they caught en route to winning the total weight category of the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.